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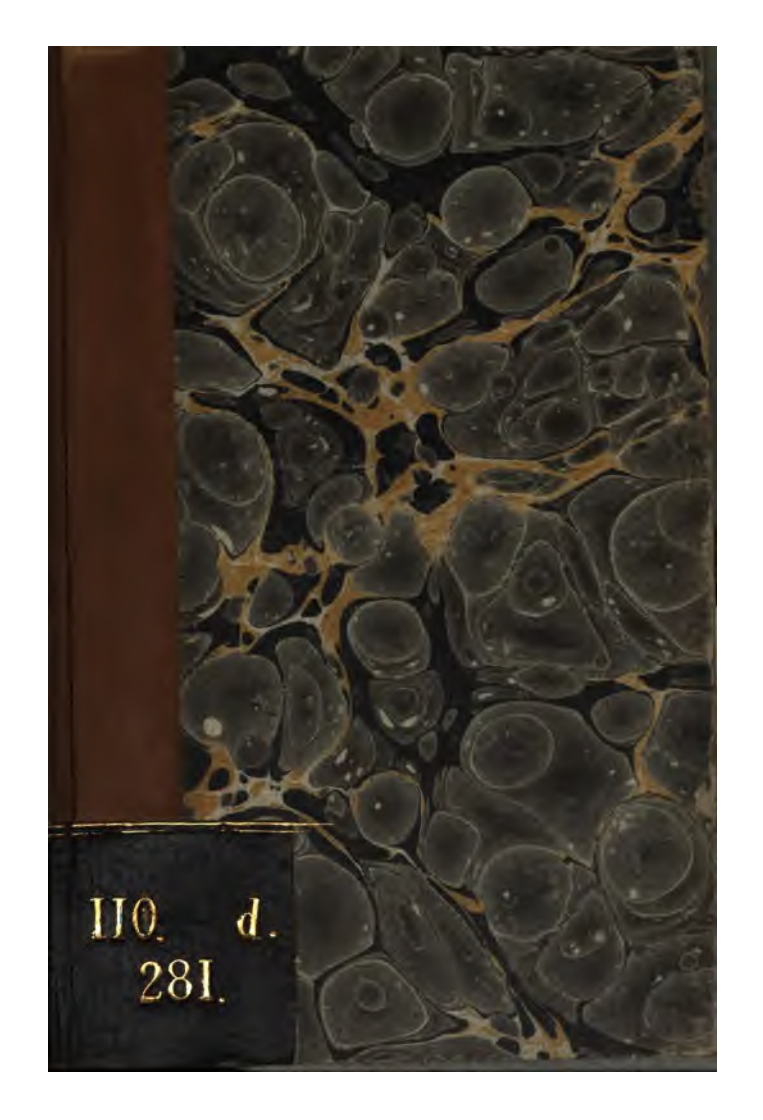
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110. d.
281.





A
SHORT HISTORY OF RELIGION

FROM THE
CREATION OF THE WORLD TO THE PRESENT TIME;

WITH
Questions for Examination.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN, WITH ADDITIONS.

EDITED BY THE
REV. THOMAS T. FERGUSSON, D.D.



With permission of Superiors.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF RELIGION

FROM THE

Creation of the World.

HISTORY BEFORE CHRIST.

FROM ADAM TO MOSES.

B.C. 4000—1530.

1. THE CREATION.—In the beginning GOD created heaven and earth. He said, Let them be made, and they were made. "He spoke and they were made." (Ps. 148. 5.) In six days GOD created the whole world, the sun, the moon, and stars, the plants, trees, and animals; and last of all, He created man to His own image and likeness. The first man was called Adam, and the first woman, Eve. They were created just and holy, and they were the friends of GOD. They lived happily in a delicious garden, called Paradise, and they and their descendants were never to die, provided they remained submissive to GOD's will.

1. How did God create heaven and earth? In how many days did He create all things? When did He create man? How did He distinguish man from other creatures? What were the names of the first man and woman? Were they created as liable to sin, as we are? Where did they live? Were they and their children ever to die?

and Eve believed the serpent, against the commandment of GOD. For this sin punishment immediately came upon them and their descendants. They lost their original holiness; they were doomed to various hardships; they were driven forth from Eden and they were to be banished from the Garden of Eden. Nevertheless, GOD had compassion on them and promised them a SAVIOUR, Who would bring them again to Him, should deliver them from the power of sin and hell, and should bestow upon them the takers of eternal happiness, through repentance.

3. CAIN AND ABEL.—Cain and Abel, the first parents, offered sacrifice to ALMIGHTY GOD. GOD was pleased with that of the pious Abel, but not with that of the wicked Cain. Cain, being exceedingly angry at the preference given to his brother, killed him, and in consequence was cursed by GOD, and became a vagabond upon the earth.

4. THE DELUGE.—The descendants of Noah were multiplied, and the wickedness of the world increased. GOD was grieved at the hardness of their hearts, and decided to destroy the world with a deluge of water. He warned Noah of the coming flood, and commanded him to build an ark, into which he and his family, and the animals of the world, were to enter for their preservation. After the flood, GOD made a covenant with Noah, promising never again to destroy the world with water.

2. What came upon the world after the flood?

Cain were bad, like their father, and they gradually seduced the good; so that, after a time, all men turned away from GOD, and were filled with iniquity. GOD then resolved to destroy the corrupted race of man by a universal deluge. (B.C. 2350.) The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, and the waters rose fifteen cubits, or twenty-seven feet and a half, above the highest mountains; and all living things on the face of the earth perished in the flood, except the pious Noe and his family, and the animals which he took with him into the ark, that he had made by the command of GOD. In thanksgiving for this favour, Noe erected an altar, and offered a burnt-sacrifice upon it to the LORD, Who was pleased with it; and He blessed Noe and his sons, and promised him that there should "no more be waters of a flood to destroy all flesh." (Gen. 9. 15.)

5. THE TOWER OF BABEL.—The descendants of Noe became so numerous, that they were soon obliged to disperse into all lands. They proposed, before they should be scattered, to build a city and a tower, the top of which might reach heaven. But GOD confounded their language, so that they were obliged to desist from their building. They then gave themselves up to their wicked inclinations, and fell away so grievously, that instead of adoring the true GOD, they worshipped the sun and moon, and stars, men and animals, and even idols of gold and silver, of stone and wood. This shameful idolatry

evil did they do? How did God punish them? To what height did the flood rise? Did all men perish? What did Noe do when he came out of the ark? What did God do to Noe?

5. What happened to the descendants of Noe? What did they propose doing? How was their design frustrated? What was the consequence of their idolatry?

4 CALL OF ABRAHAM.—SACRIFICE OF ISAAC.

brought with it the commission of all sins and vices which again prevailed in a frightful manner among mankind.

6. CALL OF ABRAHAM.—GOD, however, provided that the true religion, namely, the knowledge of the true GOD, and the practice of virtue, and the belief and hope in a future Redeemer, should not entirely vanish from the earth. He, therefore, chose Abraham (B.C. 2000,) made a particular covenant with him, and promised him that the Redeemer, or Messias, should be born of his family, saying, "In thee shall all the kindred of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12. 3.) He also distinguished Abraham and his descendants, who were called Hebrews, and afterwards Israelites or Jews, from all other nations; and, in the course of time, He often revealed Himself to them in a wonderful manner.

7. SACRIFICE OF ISAAC.—In order to try the faith of Abraham, GOD commanded him to offer his only son Isaac in sacrifice upon Mount Moria. Abraham set out without hesitation, made Isaac carry the wood for the burnt-offering, and ascended the mountain with him. When they had reached the summit, Isaac willingly consented to be laid on the wood to be offered up; but GOD saved the pious Isaac by an angel, blessed Abraham for his obedience and faith, and renewed all His former promises to him. Isaac was here the figure of the future SAVIOUR of the

6. Was the true religion and belief in the Redeemer entirely to vanish? How did God prevent this? How were the descendants of Abraham called? What favour did God bestow upon them?

7. How did God try the faith of Abraham? How did he fulfil the command of God? What did Isaac do? Did God suffer him to be killed? How did God reward Abraham? Of whom was Isaac the figure, and how?

world, Who, in obedience to His FATHER, took the wood of the Cross upon His shoulders, and carried it to Mount Calvary, to sacrifice Himself upon it for our redemption.

8. JACOB'S PROPHECY.—The patriarch Jacob was the son of Isaac, and lived with his family in the land of Chanaan, the country into which GOD had called Abraham. He had twelve sons, who became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. One of them, Joseph, was chosen by GOD, through what happened to him, to be a figure of JESUS CHRIST. Having been sold by his brothers, he was taken into Egypt, where he was falsely accused, and cast into prison. Having recovered his liberty, the king made him chief ruler of Egypt; and as, by his wisdom and prudence, he saved the country during seven years of dreadful famine, he was called, "Saviour of the world." At his invitation Jacob went to Egypt, and settled there with all his family. Before his death, he pronounced this remarkable prophecy regarding the Redeemer. "The sceptre (supreme power) shall not be taken away from (the tribe of) Juda (his son), till He come that is to be sent; and He shall be the expectation of nations." (Gen. 49. 10.) And in fact, CHRIST, Who was sent by GOD, was not born until Herod, a stranger, sat on the throne of the kings of Juda.

8. Who was Jacob, and where did he live? How many sons had he, and what did they become afterwards? What was Joseph chosen by God to be? What happened to him? Whither did Jacob go from Chanaan? What did he prophesy before his death, and about whom? How was it fulfilled?

FROM MOSES TO CHRIST.

B.C. 1530—A.D. 1.

9. **THE ISRAELITES IN EGYPT.**—After Joseph's death, the Israelites increased into a great people, insomuch that the Egyptians feared they might become too powerful; and they persecuted them, and reduced them to the greatest slavery. At length the LORD appeared unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and sent him to deliver the children of Israel, and lead them back to the land of Chanaan. Pharao, the King of Egypt, would not let them go; and so ALMIGHTY GOD, in punishment for this resistance, sent dreadful plagues over all the land, and at last, an angel who in one night killed all the first-born of the Egyptians. But the destroying angel did not hurt the Israelites, because they had sprinkled the doors of their houses with the blood of the paschal lamb, which, according to GOD's command, they ate that very night. By this was foreshown how, one day, mankind should be delivered from eternal death by the Blood of JESUS CHRIST, the true Divine Paschal Lamb, which we eat in the Holy Eucharist.

10. **THE ISRAELITES LEAVE EGYPT.**—Then Pharao permitted the Israelites to depart; but he soon regretted it. In all haste he collected his troops, and pursued the unarmed Israelites to the shores of the

9. What happened to the children of Israel in Egypt? Whom did God appoint to deliver them? Where did He appear to Moses? Did Moses deliver the Israelites easily? What did God do to the Egyptians? Did the angel also hurt the Israelites? Why did he not hurt them? What did the Paschal Lamb signify?

10. Was Pharao sincere when he let the Israelites go?

Red Sea. They, full of alarm and fear at their danger, implored the assistance of GOD. Then Moses, by command of GOD, stretched forth his rod over the Red Sea; and the waters were divided before them, and stood like a wall beside them, on their right hand and on their left; and they passed through it on dry ground. Pharaoh rushed furiously after them into the midst of the sea; and then Moses once more stretched forth his rod over the waters, and they suddenly returned to their former place, and Pharaoh and his whole army were drowned.

11. THE COMMANDMENTS GIVEN ON MOUNT SINAI.—The children of Israel had now to travel through a vast wilderness, in order to prove their fidelity to GOD. When they were come to Mount Sinai, GOD appeared to them upon the mountain, amidst thunder and lightning, and gave them the Ten Commandments written on two tables of stone. He also renewed with them the covenant He had made with their fathers, and He regulated their religious and civil duties by most salutary laws. But the people soon forgot the commandments and blessings of GOD; they continually complained and murmured, and they were so wicked as to make a golden calf, and worship it as GOD.

12. THE JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND.—In punishment of these and many other grievous sins, the Israelites had to remain forty years in the desert, until another and better generation had grown

What did he do? What did the Israelites do? How were they delivered? How did GOD punish Pharaoh?

11. Did the Israelites go on immediately to Chanaan? What happened at Mount Sinai? What did GOD give them there? What else did He do? What return did they make for these benefits?

12. How was their ingratitude punished? Did GOD

up. Nevertheless, GOD continually bestowed favours upon them. He gave them bread, called manna, from heaven; and caused water to run out from a rock for them; and at last, after Moses' death, He conducted them into Chanaan, or Palestine, the promised land, which they conquered with His powerful assistance, and divided into twelve parts, giving one to each of the twelve tribes. All this was a figure of our future happiness in heaven. (1 Cor. 10. 6.) The deliverance from the bondage of Egypt, signifies our liberation from the slavery of Satan by JESUS CHRIST. The journey through the wilderness signifies our pilgrimage in this world, where GOD gives us His laws, nourishes us with the true bread of heaven, and strengthens us with the life-giving fountains of grace. The land of promise refers to heaven, which we must conquer and gain an eternal possession of by combating against sin.

13. THE JUDGES.—In this beautiful country the Israelites lived happily, and were blessed by GOD, until, contrary to His express command, they united themselves by marriage to the Gentiles or Pagans, and thereby fell again into vice and idolatry. As often as they turned away from GOD, He abandoned them to their enemies; but when they returned to Him, He raised among them pious heroes, called Judges, such as Gedeon, Jephte, Samson, who rescued them from their dangers.

altogether abandon them? What favours did He still show them? How did they get possession of Chanaan? Is there not a figure in all this? What does the deliverance from Egypt signify? What did the journey through the desert signify? What does the promised land call to our mind?

13. How long did the Israelites remain happy in the promised land? What happened to them when they offended God? How did God help them when they repented?

14. KING DAVID.—For four hundred years, the people of Israel were ruled by the High-Priests and Judges, who were invested with supreme authority over them; but after that, they desired to have a king, like the neighbouring nations. GOD gave them Saul for their first king. He was, however, deposed by GOD for his sins and disobedience, and was succeeded by David. David was strong and mighty. When he was only a youth, he had slain the giant Goliath; and when he became king, he established and extended his kingdom by splendid victories. He served GOD with a pure heart, and composed in His honour those beautiful sacred songs, called Psalms, in which, by Divine inspiration, he prophesied many things concerning the Redeemer of the world, who was to be born of his family, and whose kingdom should have no end. For this reason, CHRIST is also called the Son of David.

15. SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE.—Solomon, his son and successor, was a wise and great king. He built a magnificent temple for the LORD in Jerusalem. The sanctuary, or the Holy of Holies, was overlaid with plates of the purest gold. In it was kept the ark of the covenant, which contained the two tables of laws written by GOD Himself. The High-Priest was the only person who was allowed, once a year, to enter the sanctuary. The people

14. Who were the first rulers of the people of Israel? How long were they governed by them? Who was the first king of Israel? Why was he deposed? By whom was he succeeded? What can you tell me of David? Was he also pious? Why are his Psalms so very remarkable? Why is CHRIST called the Son of David?

15. Who was Solomon? What famous building did he erect? What was kept in the Sanctuary of the Temple? Who was permitted to enter into it, and how often in the

10 SEPARATION AND CAPTIVITY OF THE TRIBES.

of Israel had no other temple, nor was any one permitted to offer up sacrifice in any other place, except in the temple of Jerusalem. Solomon, however, did not persevere in goodness. He married Pagan wives, and suffered them to draw him away into idolatry. (B.C. 980.)

16. THE SEPARATION OF THE TWELVE TRIBES, AND THE CAPTIVITY.—After Solomon's death, his kingdom was divided. The tribes of Juda and Benjamin remained faithful to King Roboam, his son; and they formed the kingdom of Juda, the chief city of which was Jerusalem. The other ten tribes chose another king, and made Samaria the capital of their kingdom, which from that time was called the kingdom of Israel. At the same time they abandoned the religion of their fathers, made a false religion, and built a temple for themselves at Samaria, where they practised all sorts of the most abominable idolatry. God therefore delivered them into the hands of the Pagan king, Salmanassar, who destroyed the kingdom of Israel for ever, and took the people to Ninive, into the Assyrian captivity. (B.C. 722.) The kingdom of Juda was also repeatedly chastised by God for its many transgressions; and at last Nabuchodonosor took Jerusalem, burnt the temple, and carried the people into the captivity of Babylon. (B.C. 606.)

year? Had the Israelites any other temple and altars? Did Solomon persevere in goodness? What made him leave the service of God?

16. What happened after his death? Which tribes formed the kingdom of Juda? Which was their capital city? How many tribes had the kingdom of Israel? Which was their capital? Did the kingdom of Israel remain faithful to God? How did God punish it? Did the kingdom of Juda sin against God? Was it also chastised, and how? Was not its punishment less severe than that of the kingdom of Israel, and why?

But the kingdom of Juda was not destroyed for ever, like the kingdom of Israel, that had forsaken the religion of its fathers.

17. THE PROPHETS.—These severe judgments of GOD were not inflicted on them without many warnings. The Prophets, men enlightened and sent by GOD, had announced those judgments long before, in order to rouse the people to repentance; and they confirmed their words by great miracles. These same Prophets also promised pardon for their sins, if they repented; and they prophesied of the Redeemer who was to come. In their books, written many centuries before CHRIST, we read all the circumstances of His life and sufferings: His birth of a Virgin at Bethlehem, His office of teaching, His miracles, His sufferings, His death, His resurrection, the descent of the HOLY GHOST, the destruction of Jerusalem, the conversion of the Gentiles, and the splendour of the Christian Church. Daniel even foretold the very year in which the SAVIOUR was to appear. The most remarkable of the Prophets were,—Elias, Eliseus, Isaias, Jeremias, Ezechiel, and Daniel.

18. THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM.—During the time of the captivity, illustrious examples of rare virtues were given by Tobias at Ninive; and at Babylon, by the chaste Susanna, by the three young men in the fiery furnace, and by Daniel in the den of lions. The captivity of Babylon lasted seventy years,

17. Did the judgments of God come upon them unexpectedly? How did God forewarn the people? Did the prophets only announce God's judgments? What have they foretold of the MESSIAS? Which prophet foretold the precise time of His coming? Which were the most remarkable among the prophets?

18. Who distinguished themselves by their virtues at Ninive and Babylon? How long did the captivity of Baby-

when Cyrus, king of Persia, after taking Babylon, gave permission to the Jews, by inspiration of GOD, to return to their own country, (B.C. 536,) and to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. In a short time the second temple was finished; and when the old men began to complain that its magnificence was far inferior to that of the first, the prophet Aggeus foretold them that the glory of this last temple should be greater than that of the first, because the Desired of all nations was to enter into it. (Agg. 2. 8—10.)

19. CONSTANCY OF THE JEWS.—Esdras and Nehemias now re-established Divine Service, in conformity to the law; and they collected the Sacred Scriptures, which thenceforth were diligently read and interpreted to the people. All the Jews shed tears, and repented sincerely. They never more returned to idolatry, which had brought upon them the dreadful sufferings of their captivity; and when, some time later, Antiochus, king of Syria, tried to compel them to adore idols, they resisted most courageously, under the command of the High-Priest Mathathias; and many, animated by the glorious examples of old Eleazarus, and the seven Machabean brothers and their heroic mother, preferred to suffer the most atrocious of deaths, rather than yield to his commands. (B.C. 170—143.)

20. STATE OF THE WORLD BEFORE CHRIST.—Four thousand years had now elapsed since the

lon last? How was it brought to an end? What did the Jews set about when they returned? Was the new temple as magnificent as the one that had been destroyed? In what was it superior to the first one?

19. What is to be observed about Esdras and Nehemias? How did the Jews behave? Did they remain faithful in the worship of the true God? How did they show their fidelity? Who distinguished themselves especially?

20. How many years had the world been created before

creation of the world, and the signs that were to precede the coming of the Redeemer of mankind were now accomplished. The Jews longed for it with the greatest anxiety, and a general opinion was even prevalent among the Gentiles, that a great Ruler was to rise in Judea. The corruption in which the world had sunk was unbounded. The Jews, indeed, still acknowledged the one true GOD; but impious sects, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees, had sprung up among them, and a great corruption of morals had taken place. Most of them honoured GOD only with their lips, and their conduct was according to the sinful desires of their heart. All other nations, even the most cultivated amongst them, the Greeks and Romans, were devoted to the most shameful idolatry. Innumerable were the false gods and goddesses to whom they built temples, and erected altars, on which they offered sacrifices even of human beings; and they believed that they particularly honoured these false deities when they extolled their vices and atrocities, and imitated them without shame or fear. Such were the Heathens, as St. Paul testifies: "Filled with all iniquity, malice, fornication, avarice, wickedness, full of envy, murder, contention, deceit, malignity; whisperers, detractors, hateful to GOD, contumelious, proud, haughty, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, foolish, dissolute, without affection, without fidelity, without mercy." (Rom. 1. 29—31.) Who was able to help, or to save mankind under such misery? GOD alone; and He did

the MESSIAS came? Were all the signs of His coming accomplished? What was the prevalent feeling of the Jews and the Gentiles? What was the state of the world at that time? How did this appear among the Jews, and how amongst the other nations? Why is idolatry so abominable? What character does St. Paul give of the

help, and did save. For as He had promised to our first parents in the earthly Paradise, and had foretold by the Prophets, He now showed mercy to mankind, even when in its utmost degradation, and He sent them a Redeemer and Saviour. "For GOD so loved the world, as to give His only begotten SON; that whosoever believeth in Him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting." (St. John 3. 16.)

HISTORY OF JESUS CHRIST.

A.D. 1—33.

21. COMING OF CHRIST.—The world was at peace; Augustus was Emperor of Rome, and Herod the Idumean, king of Judea; when the promise of GOD and the predictions of the Prophets were accomplished. JESUS CHRIST, the SON of GOD and Redeemer of the world, was born in a stable at Bethlehem, of Mary, a virgin of the royal family of David, who was a descendant of Abraham. It was announced by Angels to the shepherds at Bethlehem, and by a star to the wise men in the east. The cruel Herod made every effort to discover the Divine Infant, that he might put Him to death; but by the

Heathens? Who was the only one who could help mankind? Did He help, and how? What does CHRIST say about this?

21. Under what emperor and king was the Redeemer born? Where, and of whom was He born? Who was first told of His birth, and by whom? What did Herod seek after Him for? What did St. Joseph do?

D's command, Joseph, the foster-father of JESUS, with Him and His mother to Egypt, and remained there until after the death of Herod. They then returned, and JESUS led a retired life at Nazareth, subject to His parents, "and advanced in wisdom and grace with GOD and men." (St. Luke 2. 52.) When He was twelve years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the Pasch, or Passover, and remained there three days in the temple, confounding even the Scribes, or Doctors of the Law, with His wise questions and answers. When He was thirty years of age, He went to the river Jordan to be baptized by St. John. After His baptism, the HOLY GHOST descended upon Him in the form of a dove, and a voice came from heaven saying, "This is My Beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased." (St. Luke 3. 17.)

2. CHRIST'S PREACHING, MIRACLES, AND FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.—JESUS then retired into the desert, and after having fasted there forty days and forty nights, He came forth and began to preach the Gospel, that is to say, the good tidings of the Kingdom of GOD on earth. He travelled about through the towns and villages of Judea, inviting the people to believe in Him, and proved His Divine mission and the truth of His doctrine, by His holy life, miracles, and prophecies. The principal miracles performed, were His turning water into wine, at a marriage feast in Galilee; feeding five thousand

How did Jesus spend His childhood after His return from Egypt? How did He live there? What did He do when He was twelve years old? What, when He was thirty? What happened at His baptism?

3. What did Jesus do after His baptism? What does the word Gospel mean? How did Jesus prove His divine mission? What were His principal miracles? How did

persons in the desert with five loaves; and raising the dead to life. Those who heard Him, or who saw His works, were amazed. Multitudes of people followed Him, praised and extolled Him as the true Messiah, and said, "Never did man speak like this man." (St. John 7. 46.) JESUS then selected from His followers twelve men, whom He called Apostles, or messengers, who were to be witnesses of His doctrine and works: that after His ascension into heaven, they might preach what they had seen and heard of Him, to all nations. These are the names of the twelve Apostles: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, sometimes called Jude, Simon, and Judas Iscariot, who afterwards betrayed Him. He also chose seventy-two disciples, "and He sent them two and two before His face into every city and place whither He Himself was to come." (St. Luke 10. 1.) The twelve Apostles, the seventy-two disciples, and the others who believed in JESUS, formed the beginning of that society of all the faithful, which we call the Church of CHRIST, and against which He promised that the gates of hell should never prevail. He appointed St. Peter to be their visible head and chief pastor on earth, calling him the rock, upon which He said He would build His Church, and He promised Him the keys of the kingdom of heaven. (St. Matt. 16. 18, 19.)

the people receive Him? How many apostles did He choose? What are their names? Why did He choose them? For what purpose did He elect other disciples? How many of these did He elect? Who formed the beginning of the Christian Church? What did JESUS promise to His Church? Whom did He appoint to be its *chief pastor on earth*? What did He promise to St. Peter?

23. JESUS' KINDNESS TO THE JEWS.—JESUS also conferred many great temporal favours upon the Jews: He cast out devils; He made the blind to see, and the lame to walk; He restored the sick to health, and raised the dead to life; in a word, He relieved every kind of pain and suffering. Nevertheless He had many enemies, especially among the Scribes and Pharisees, who hated Him because He refuted their errors and reproved them for their sins and vices, and also because He did not establish a temporal kingdom for them, and elevate them to high dignities. They therefore watched all His actions, that they might accuse Him; but they could not find any sin in Him. In the third year of His public teaching, and shortly before the Pasch, or Easter, JESUS, as a most convincing proof that He was sent by GOD, raised Lazarus to life four days after he had been laid in the grave. The people having heard that He had done this miracle, greatly rejoiced, and when JESUS came to Jerusalem, they went forth in crowds to meet Him, with branches of palms and olives in their hands; they spread their garments in the way, and cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the LORD: Hosannah in the highest." (St. Matt. 21. 9.) This triumphal entry of JESUS enraged His enemies still more, and from that day they sought to put Him to death.

23. What temporal favours did Jesus bestow on the Jews? How did some of the Jews behave towards Him? Why did the Scribes and Pharisees hate Him? Could they find any sin in Him? What special miracle did Jesus perform in the third year of His teaching? In proof of what was this miracle wrought? What impression did it make on the people? What did they do? What effect had it on His enemies?

24. JESUS CHRIST INSTITUTES THE HOLY EUCHARIST.—JESUS knew that the time of His bitter passion was at hand. In obedience to the will of His Divine FATHER, He prepared to pass out of this world. He ate the Paschal Lamb with His Apostles, in conformity with the Jewish law; He then took bread into His holy and venerable hands, lifting up His eyes towards heaven to GOD His Almighty FATHER, He gave thanks, blessed it, and broke, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take ye and eat; this is My Body which shall be delivered for you." After that in like manner, He took the chalice with wine in it, again gave thanks, blessed and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Drink ye all of this: this is My Blood of the New Testament, which shall be shed for you and for many unto the remission of sins: as often as ye do this, do it for a commemoration of Me." Thus JESUS instituted the Holy Eucharist, wherein under the appearances of bread and wine, He gives Himself truly for the nourishment of our souls. After the last supper, JESUS spoke for some time to His disciples in the most affectionate manner, exhorted them to love one another, and promised He would send them for their Comforter the HOLY GHOST, the Spirit of Truth, Who should teach them all things, and abide with them for ever. After this He went into the garden of Gethsemani, on the Mount of Olives, to pray.

25. THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST.—There all His sufferings were displayed most vividly to His

24. How did JESUS meet His approaching Passion? How did He celebrate the last Supper with His Apostles? What commandment did He give them at the end of it? What Sacrament did He institute then? What did He promise the Apostles? Where did He go afterwards?

25. What did He suffer in the garden? What prayer

soul. "He prayed, saying, My FATHER, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me; but not My will, but Thine be done." (St. Matt. 26. 39.) A violent agony then came over Him, "and His sweat became as drops of blood trickling down upon the ground." (St. Luke 22. 44.) In the meanwhile Judas, who was about to betray Him, approached with a band of armed men; and JESUS suffered Himself to be taken, bound, and led before the chief Jewish council, where He was mocked, spit upon, and buffeted. The High-Priest then delivered Him up as guilty of death to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, who sent Him to King Herod; but neither of them could find any evil in Him. Nevertheless He was scourged and crowned with thorns; and at last, in compliance with the clamorous demands of the High-Priest and the Jewish rabble, who preferred the murderer Barabbas before Him, He was condemned by Pilate to be crucified.

26. THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF CHRIST.—JESUS was now loaded with a heavy cross like one of the greatest criminals, and was conducted to Mount Calvary, where He was crucified between two thieves. All that the Prophets had foretold of Him, was accomplished: His hands and feet were pierced with nails; the soldiers divided His garments amongst them, and they cast lots for His coat. When He was tormented by burning thirst, they gave Him vinegar and gall to drink; and the Chief Priests, with the

did He say there? How, and by whom was He taken? What did they do to JESUS? Whither did they lead Him? How was He treated before the Jewish council? How did Pilate and Herod treat Him? What else did CHRIST suffer?

26. What did they make JESUS carry? Where did they take Him to be crucified? How were the prophecies fulfilled in Him? Whom did JESUS pray for on the

Scribes and Ancients, scoffed at Him; but JESUS suffered all with the most wonderful patience and meekness. He even prayed for His enemies, saying, "FATHER, forgive them, for they know not what they do." For three hours did JESUS hang upon the cross, suffering the most deadly pains. The sun was darkened, and all nature mourned. At last He said, "It is consummated;" then with a loud voice He cried out, "FATHER, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit;" and bowing His head, He gave up the ghost. The moment He expired, the earth trembled, the rocks were split asunder, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, the graves were opened, and afterwards many of the dead arose and appeared in Jerusalem. The Roman centurion, or captain, and the soldiers who stood near the cross, were struck with awe, and confessed, "Indeed this was the SON of GOD." Thus JESUS became "the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." (1 St. John 2. 2.)

27. HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN.—It was on Good Friday, about three o'clock in the afternoon, that JESUS died. In order to show that He was dead, "One of the soldiers with a spear opened His side, and immediately there came out blood and water." (St. John 19. 34.) His body was taken down from the cross by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, and laid in a new sepulchre hewn out

cross? How long did He remain there? What miracles happened during that time? How did our LORD expire? What miracles occurred at His death? What benefit did the death of JESUS obtain for us and for the whole world?

27. On what day and at what hour did JESUS expire? How did the soldiers assure themselves of His death? *What followed from this?* What was done with His

of a rock. The Jews sealed it, and set a guard before it. Whilst His Body was in the grave, His Soul descended into LIMBUS, or "The lower parts of the earth," (Ephes. 4. 9.) and "preached to those spirits that were in prison." (1 St. Pet. 3. 19.) Early on the third day His Soul was reunited to His Body, and the crucified LORD arose glorious from the sepulchre. During forty days afterwards He often appeared to His disciples, instructed them concerning the kingdom of GOD, that is to say, the Church, gave them power to forgive sins, and installed St. Peter head of the Church with these words, "Feed My lambs; feed My sheep." (St. John 21. 15—17.) He then appeared to them on a mountain in Galilee, and sent them into the whole world to preach the Gospel to all nations, and to baptize them in the Name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST. For this purpose He gave them the same power and authority which He had received from His heavenly FATHER, commanding all men to hear them and obey them. He also promised to send them the HOLY GHOST, Who should preserve the Church from ever teaching any false doctrine, and that He would be with them all days even to the end of the world. Finally, on the Mount of Olives He lifted up His hands over them, and whilst He blessed them, He ascended in their presence to heaven, to take possession of His eternal kingdom.

sacred body? What did His enemies do? Where did His soul go? When and how did CHRIST rise to life? How long did He remain on earth? What did He do during this time? What did He send the Apostles to do? What powers did He give them? What did He promise them? Where and how did He ascend to Heaven?

HISTORY AFTER CHRIST.

FROM THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST TO THE CON-
VERSION OF CONSTANTINE.

A.D. 33—312.

28. THE COMING OF THE HOLY GHOST.—After the Ascension of our LORD His disciples returned to Jerusalem, where they continued in prayer, expecting the coming of the HOLY GHOST, whom CHRIST had promised to send them. On the tenth day, the feast of Pentecost, there came suddenly a sound from heaven as of a mighty wind, which filled the whole house where they were assembled; and there appeared to them parted tongues as it were of fire, and it sat upon every one of them, and they were all filled with the HOLY GHOST, and they began to speak in divers languages, and to praise GOD. St. Peter, the head of the Apostles, stood up and declared to the multitude of the Jews who had come together, that the same JESUS whom they had crucified, and whom GOD had raised from the dead, was their LORD and Redeemer, and he called upon them to believe in Him. His discourse was so convincing, that no less than three thousand asked to be baptized. Soon after, St. Peter went with St. John to the temple, and there was a lame man lying at the gate who asked alms of them. St. Peter said to him, "Silver and gold I have none; but what I have I give thee: in the Name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth,

28. How did the Apostles prepare to receive the HOLY GHOST? When and how did the HOLY GHOST come? What did it produce in them? What did St. Peter do? What was the result of his sermon? How was the lame

arise and walk;" and forthwith the lame man leaped up and walked joyfully into the temple praising God. All the people were filled with amazement at this miracle, and five thousand more of them asked to be baptized.

29. SUCCESS OF THE APOSTLES' PREACHING.—The Apostles preached the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST with great power, and wrought many signs and wonders. By this their authority increased so much, that the people even brought their sick into the streets, that the shadow of St. Peter as he passed by, might heal them. The Chief Priests and their adherents seeing all this, became greatly exasperated; they caused the Apostles to be apprehended and scourged, and commanded them not to preach in the Name of JESUS. They stirred up the people against them, insomuch that they stoned St. Stephen to death, who thus became the first martyr; and they perpetrated many other acts of violence. But no earthly power was able to prevent the spread of the doctrine of JESUS CHRIST. The Apostles said they would obey GOD rather than men, and they ceased not to preach the crucified SAVIOUR, both in the Temple and from house to house, and the number of those who presented themselves to be baptized, increased exceedingly every day. Even Saul, afterwards called Paul, the most furious enemy and persecutor of the Christians, was converted, and became, through

man healed at the temple gate? What effect had this miracle on the Jews?

29. By what else did the Apostles spread the true doctrine? What did the people do in consequence of this? What happened among the chief priests and their adherents? What did they do to the Apostles? Who was the first martyr? Did the Apostles cease from preaching for that? What can you relate of St. Paul?

the grace of GOD, an Apostle of JESUS CHRIST, and a most zealous preacher of the Gospel.

30. THE FIRST CHRISTIANS.—The new converts in Jerusalem and its neighbourhood, together with the first followers of CHRIST, formed the first Christian community, called the Church. Their conduct was blameless; they served GOD with gladness and in simplicity of heart. They all lived in the greatest harmony, and had but one heart and one soul; none among them suffered want, for the rich willingly sold for the relief of the poor, what they could spare, such as houses and lands, and they laid the price of them at the feet of the Apostles, that they might divide it as every one had need. The Apostles were the rulers of the Church, as CHRIST had ordained they taught, baptized, and administered the other Sacraments; they managed all ecclesiastical affairs, and they governed the faithful.

31. THE APOSTLES PREACH TO THE NATIONS.—Although many of the Jews embraced the doctrine of CHRIST, the greater part of them remained obstinate in their unbelief. GOD therefore permitted the punishment they had been threatened with, to be inflicted upon them, and about forty years after CHRIST's Ascension, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Temple burnt by the Romans. One million and one hundred thousand Jews lost their lives, the res

30. Of whom was the first Christian Church composed? What was their conduct, and how did they serve God? Was there any dissension amongst them? Did any of them suffer from want? How were the poor relieved? By what authority, and how did the Apostles govern the Church?

31. Were the Jews all converted? How were those punished who refused to believe? When were they punished? What became of Jerusalem and the temple? What pun

were banished from their country, and dispersed all over the world, and they remain so to this day, as living witnesses of the Divine judgment. The stubbornness of the Jews, but still more the express command of GOD, had early determined the Apostles to go and preach to the pagan nations, or Gentiles. They first met together and composed the Creed, hence called the Apostles' Creed, and then separating, they went forth and announced the good tidings of the Gospel to the Pagans through many hardships and perils, even of death. Tradition tells us that St. Peter preached in Judea, Samaria, Antioch and Rome; St. Paul in Syria, Macedonia, Greece and Italy; St. John in Asia Minor and Greece; St. Thomas in India; St. James in Jerusalem; St. Andrew in Scythia; St. Philip in Upper Asia; St. Matthew in Ethiopia; St. Matthias in Persia; St. Simon in Mesopotamia; St. Bartholomew in Armenia; and St. Jude in Arabia. GOD visibly blessed their efforts, and thirty years had scarcely elapsed after the descent of the HOLY GHOST, when there were already Christian communities, or Churches, in all parts of the world. When the Apostles converted nations, they chose holy men from amongst them, and consecrated them Bishops by special forms of prayer and the imposition of hands, communicating to them their powers of conferring the Sacraments, establishing them as their successors, and commanding the faithful to obey them. All these communities were closely united together in the same faith, and all obeyed St. Peter, the chief of the Apostles, thus forming under

ment was inflicted besides on the Jews? What visible proof is there in our days of that Divine punishment? Why did the Apostles go and preach to the pagan nations? What did they do before they separated? What are the names of the Apostles? What was the effect of their preaching? How did the Apostles establish Churches among th

a common head the one, universal, i.e. Catholic Church. St. Peter was first Bishop of Antioch, and afterwards Bishop of Rome, where he suffered martyrdom, under Nero, A.D. 65 : and at his death the supreme authority over the whole Church devolved upon his successors, the Bishops of Rome, or the Popes, and remains with them to the present day.

32. THE MARTYRS.—The Pagans were struck with fear at seeing the rapid progress of the Christian religion, which clearly condemned their vicious lives and monstrous idolatry. They therefore resolved to exterminate the Christians. They persecuted them with death and most cruel torments, to make them deny their belief. The Christians were scourged, and exposed for food to the wild beasts ; their sides were torn with iron hooks, or burnt with torches ; they were put into boiling oil, mutilated, sawn in pieces, and crucified ; they were covered with pitch and set fire to, that they might serve to light the nocturnal plays of the Pagans. They were sentenced everywhere to suffer most fearful tortures. The whole earth was saturated with their blood, and multitudes of every age, sex, and condition, died under the most dreadful torments rather than give up their belief in CHRIST. Such persons are called martyrs. At Rome especially, the capital of Paganism, and the home of all the abominations of idolatry, the number of those

converts ? Did these Churches all hold the same faith ? Whom did they all obey ? Were they Catholics ? Where did St. Peter die ? Upon whom did his supremacy over the whole Church devolve ?

32. What did the Pagans think of Christianity ? How did they endeavour to destroy it ? What torments did *they inflict upon the Christians ? Were there many thus tortured and killed ? Who were the martyrs ? What did the persecution chiefly rage ? Have we any evidence*

who suffered martyrdom was so great, that it surpasses all thought. The city overflowed with the Christians' blood, and their bones, which are still to be seen in the subterraneous caverns, or catacombs of that city, where they were entombed, are witnesses of it to this day. The most famous of these martyrs were St. Laurence, St. Vincent, St. Sebastian, St. Agnes, St. Lucy, and St. George.

33. THE TRIALS OF THE CHURCH.—These terrible persecutions lasted with a few interruptions, for three hundred years. They served to prove the Divine character of the Church, for had Christianity been the work of man, it would certainly have been extirpated by the fierce attacks of its assailants; but as it was the work of JESUS, the SON of GOD, nothing could prevent its progress, and it took deeper and deeper root, and spread more and more over the world. The signs and wonders which the followers of CHRIST did; their holiness and charity, but above all, the undisturbed serenity of mind and cheerfulness of heart, with which they suffered the most cruel torments, and the most painful of deaths; convinced the Pagans that the GOD of the Christians could be the only true GOD. It even often happened that while the Christians were suffering these most horrible tortures, many of the Pagan spectators, converted at the sight of such heroic endurance, cried out, "We are Christians like them, kill us also:" and thus the

this now-a-days? Who were the most famous among the martyrs?

33. How long did these persecutions last? Was the Christian religion extirpated by them? Why not? What convinced the Pagans of the divine origin of Christianity? What occurred sometimes while the Christians were suffering tortures? Did the number of Christians become less

blood of the martyrs was the fruitful seed from which fresh Christians continually sprang up.

34. THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE.—By permitting all this, GOD had sufficiently shown to the world, that the establishment of the Church was His work, and that all the powers of the earth could not prevail against it. He now bestowed peace on the Church, by calling Constantine the Great to be the protector of Christianity. This emperor, while still a Pagan, was at war with Maxentius, his enemy, who had an army far greater than his. Constantine prayed fervently to the true GOD for assistance, and a bright cross appeared in the heavens to him and his whole army, with the following inscription upon it, “IN THIS SIGN SHALT THOU CONQUER.” Upon that, Constantine ordered a banner to be made like this cross, and had it carried before his army in battle. He then bravely attacked the superior forces of Maxentius, and overcame them: and from that moment (A.D. 312) Constantine became the defender and protector of Christianity.

FROM THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE TO THE GREEK SCHISM.

A.D. 312—866.

35. OVERTHROW OF PAGANISM.—The cross that had hitherto been the sign of the greatest ignominy, now became the sign of honour and victory. It glittered on the imperial crown of Constantine, and was displayed on the summit of the Capitol, or castle of

34. Why did God permit these persecutions? Whom did He call to put an end to them? Who was Constantine, and what can you relate concerning his victory? What *did he behold in the heavens?*

35. *What had the cross been before this, and what did it become now? Where was it particularly seen, and what*

Rome, which till then had been the capital of Paganism ; and thus the triumph of the crucified GOD-MAN was announced to the whole world. Constantine granted the free practice of their religion to the Christians, built splendid churches for them, and conferred great honours and preferments on the Priests, and especially upon the Popes. His example prompted thousands of the Pagans to embrace the Divine doctrine, and their idols were soon abandoned and their temples deserted. In a short time, Paganism was completely overthrown throughout the whole Roman empire, and the Christian religion permanently established.

36. RISE AND CONDEMNATION OF HERESIES.—The Catholic Church had now to gain victories of another kind, namely, over its internal enemies, the Heretics. Several heretical and schismatical doctrines had already been broached in different places, as CHRIST had foretold ; they had however soon disappeared ; but now, by GOD's permission, some new Heretics arose, who gained many followers by fraud and cunning, and then they impudently left the Church, and formed separate communions, or sects, which were named after them ; as, the Arians, Nestorians, Eutychians, Pelagians, &c. These Heretics often succeeded in gaining the favour of princes and emperors, under whose protection they most cruelly

did it announce to the world ? What did Constantine do for the Christians and for the Priests ? What effect had his example upon the Pagans ? What became of Paganism, its idols and temples ?

36. Were the contests of the Church at an end ? Who were its new enemies ? What heresies had there been before ? How did the new Heretics gain followers, and how did they behave ? Whence did the sects take their names ? How did the Heretics treat the Catholics ? H

oppressed and persecuted the faithful. In the same way therefore, as the Apostles had formerly assembled by the inspiration of the HOLY GHOST, under the presidency of St. Peter (Acts 15), and had settled such differences as had arisen; so now also their successors, the Bishops of the Catholic Church, assembled under the presidency of the Pope, or of his legates, consulted about the heretical doctrines, and then condemned them. Such an assembly of Bishops is called a GENERAL COUNCIL, and the decisions of such a Council in matters of faith and morals, when confirmed by the Pope, are infallible; because they proceed from the Church, which the HOLY GHOST invisibly governs and preserves from all error. One of the most famous Councils was that of Nice, in Asia Minor, which was held in 325. There were three hundred and eighteen Bishops assembled, and amongst them there were many holy prelates, who had suffered even the loss of their eyes and limbs for CHRIST's sake in the persecution. They unanimously condemned the profligate Arius and his followers, who obstinately maintained that JESUS CHRIST was not GOD. Although these sectarians were at that time very powerful, the Church by her solemn decision set the seal of reprobation on them, and in consequence they gradually lost their influence. The same sentence was passed on succeeding heresies in other councils. In the Council of Constantinople, in 381, against Macedonius, who denied the Divinity of the

did the Church oppose these heresies? What is the name of a general assembly of the Church? When, and why are the decisions of a Council infallible? When was the Council of Nice held, and what Bishops assembled there? *What sentence did they pass? What error did these sectarians maintain, and what became of them after their condemnation? How did other heresies fare? Which*

HOLY GHOST; in the Council of Ephesus, in 431, against Nestorius, who denied that the Blessed Virgin was the Mother of GOD; and in the Council of Chalcedon, in 451, against Eutyches, who denied that our SAVIOUR was truly GOD and Man. These Councils above-mentioned, are the first four General Councils so celebrated in the history of the Church, and they bear witness of the severe conflicts which the Church had to engage in, but from which, according to CHRIST's promise, it has always even to the present day come off victorious.

37. THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE CHURCH.—During this period GOD also illustrated His Church by many holy and learned men, who gloriously defended the true doctrine. They are called "Doctors of the Church," or "Fathers of the Church." Such were St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria, who had to endure a severe and long persecution from the Arians for the true faith (D. 373): St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Cæsarea (D. 379): St. Gregory Nazianzen (D. 389): and St. John, surnamed Chrysostom, or "Golden Mouth" (D. 407), both Patriarchs of Constantinople: St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (D. 386): and St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria (D. 444): St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan (D. 397): St. Jerome, celebrated for his Latin translation of the Holy Scriptures (D. 420): St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, in Africa, one of the greatest luminaries of the Church (D. 430): and the Holy Popes, St. Leo the Great (D. 461), and St. Gregory the Great, (D. 604.) Whilst the holy Fathers of the Church were thus peculiarly

were the first four general Councils, and what heresies did they condemn? What became of the Catholic Church?

37. By whom did God especially illustrate His Church about this time? How are those persons called? Can you tell me their names? Did any other men distinguish

32 MIGRATION AND CONVERSION OF THE NATIONS.

distinguishing themselves as defenders of the faith, the Hermits, or Solitaries of the desert, were giving bright examples of sanctity and austere penance. These were pious Christians, who fled from the seductive pleasures of the world, to prepare in solitude by prayer and self-denial for a happy death. A cavern in a rock, or a hut made of branches, was their abode; the bare ground, or a few leaves their bed; roots and herbs were their food, and water was their drink. They renounced all earthly delights, that they might entirely die to the world, and live only for God. The most famous among them was St. Anthony (D. 356). The solitary or hermit life subsequently gave rise to the monastic or religious orders, of which that of St. Benedict (D. 543) was the most flourishing and meritorious in the West of Europe, and especially in England, where it was introduced by St. Augustine, and exists to the present day.

38. THE MIGRATION AND CONVERSION OF THE NATIONS.—In the fifth and sixth centuries, the Church was exposed to new dangers, by the Migration of the Nations. They were mostly rapacious Pagan tribes, who left their own wild homes in countless swarms, and overran the countries of Christendom, laying waste all before them with fire and sword. Some of them were called Goths and Vandals; but the most merciless and savage of all these barbarian

themselves in the Church at this time? Who were the Hermits, and where was their abode? What was their food and mode of living? Who was the most famous of these Solitaries? What did the Hermits give rise to afterwards? Who particularly advanced the monastic life in the West? Who were the most famous monks in England?

38. What dangers did the Church incur during the fifth and sixth centuries? What were the barbarians called? Which of the barbarian nations behaved the most cruelly?

nations were the Huns, under their king Attila, who called himself "The Scourge of God." The most celebrated towns, and great multitudes of people were totally destroyed by them. The Roman empire, more than one thousand years old, and once so powerful, could no longer resist these savage tribes, and it was broken to pieces, no doubt in punishment for its persecution of GOD's Church, and also, by its fall, to prepare the way for the establishment of the temporal dominion of the Popes. It is impossible to describe the extent of misery with which these barbarous nations afflicted all Europe, until GOD subdued and civilized them by means of that very Church which they had threatened with destruction. Rome, the centre of Christianity, and the residence of the Popes, the successors of St. Peter, effected the conversion of the nations then, as she has done at all times. The Popes sent holy men, who went and preached the good tidings of salvation to the Pagans. They took the cross and the Gospel in their hands, and although they were exposed to the greatest dangers, they preached with no less courage and confidence in GOD, the doctrine of the SAVIOUR of the world to them.

39. CONVERSION OF THE BRITONS AND ANGLO-SAXONS.—The Britons, under King Lucius, had early received the light of faith while under the Roman dominion, from Pope St. Eleutherius, in 181, and many of them suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Diocletian in 303. The first of these

Did these savage tribes do much harm? Why did the Roman empire fall? How did GOD subdue them? From what city did the Apostles of the nations go to convert them? By whom were they sent? Who are the Popes? Did the missionaries find it an easy task to convert the barbarians? In whom did they trust for help?

39. When was Christianity first taught in Britain, or

martyrs was St. Alban. But the Saxons, who were Pagans, having invaded England in 449, the country was again overspread with their false religion. The British Christians, with their Bishops and Priests, were driven into the mountains and forests of Wales and Cornwall; some of them fled into Britany, in France, and a great many were put to death. Their churches were demolished. This state of things lasted about a hundred and fifty years, until Pope St. Gregory the Great, in 596, sent St. Augustine, a Benedictine monk, with forty companions, to re-establish the Church of CHRIST in this island. St. Augustine was well received by Ethelbert, king of Kent, and his subjects, whom he baptized; and he was created by the Pope first Archbishop of Canterbury. Pope St. Gregory and his successors then sent over several other missionary Priests, and in about sixty years afterwards, all the Saxon kingdoms of England were entirely converted to Christianity. The Anglo-Saxons were most fervent Christians: they were most attached and obedient to the Popes, and paid them a tribute which was called Peter's pence; they built splendid churches and monasteries, they sent many holy persons under the Popes' direction to convert other nations, and they produced many Saints and learned men. Amongst these were St. Wilfrid, St. Cuthbert, St. Bede, called

under what king and Pope? Who was the first British martyr? Was the Christian Church in Britain destroyed, and by whom? How long did the country thus remain overspread with Paganism? Who sent the first missionary to the Anglo-Saxons, and when? What was his name? What king did he baptize? Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury? How long was it before all the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity? Were they good Catholics, and were they obedient to the Popes? What are the names of some of the Anglo-Saxon Saints and learned

the Venerable, St. Edward, Alfred, and Alcuin. In the ninth century the Danes, who were Pagans, invaded England, and disastrous wars ensued, which produced much evil amongst the Anglo-Saxon Catholics; though some of them by their constancy merited the crown of martyrdom, as did St. Edmund, the king (D. 870). GOD however raised up holy Bishops, such as St. Dunstan (D. 988), and St. Oswald, (D. 992), who fearlessly preached against immorality and disobedience to the laws of the Church; and these by their authority and sanctity, restored the Anglo-Saxons to their former fervour.

40. THE CONVERSION OF IRELAND.—The Catholic faith was first preached to the Irish by St. Palladius, a Roman, who was ordained Bishop by Pope Celestine, and sent to Ireland in 431. He was banished after a few months by the King of Leinster, and then went to the land of the Picts. In the following year, 432, St. Patrick was consecrated Bishop and sent by the same Pope to Ireland. This holy and zealous man worked many miracles, and he converted nearly the whole Irish nation. He established the Archiepiscopal see at Armagh, and died the death of the just, in 464. He has been justly called the "Apostle of Ireland." At the close of the fifth century hardly a trace of Paganism was to be seen: and during the three succeeding ages, Ireland

men? Did the Danes interfere with the religion of the Anglo-Saxons? Who were the holy Bishops who preached with such fruit to the Anglo-Saxons?

40. Who first preached the Catholic faith to the Irish? By whom was he sent, and when? Did he convert the Irish? Whom did the same Pope send them, and in what year? Was he more successful than St. Palladius? What has he justly been called? Where was he Archbishop, and when did he die? What change took place in Ireland

abounded with so many holy persons, that it was called the Island of Saints. Ireland also during that time produced most learned men, many of whom were invited by foreign princes to establish seminaries in their dominions; and its schools were so famous, that persons came from England and all parts of the continent for instruction. Moreover many holy and apostolical men were sent from thence to instruct and convert the Heathens in Scotland, in Britain, in the Netherlands, in France, and Germany. The invasion of the Danes caused in Ireland, as in every other country they attacked, great harm to religion; but GOD gave Saints to the Irish Church, who preserved the faith, and checked and corrected evil. One of the chief defenders of Christian faith and piety in those ages was St. Malachi, Archbishop of Armagh.

41. CONVERSION OF SCOTLAND.—The Scots, under their King Donald, received the faith from missionaries sent by Pope Victor, in the year 200. St. Palladius, who preached in Ireland, also converted many of the Scots, and is called the Apostle of Scotland. About the same time, St. Ninian, who had spent many years in Rome, in the practice of all Christian virtues and studying the sacred sciences, was sent as Bishop to the Southern Picts or Scots, and converted them from idolatry to the faith of

when the Catholic faith was introduced? What name did Ireland go by? For what was it especially renowned? Did missionaries go from Ireland to convert other countries, and where did they go? Did the Danes destroy the Catholic religion in Ireland? Who was St. Malachi?

41. When was the Catholic faith preached to the Scots? *Who sent the missionaries there? Who is called the Apostle of Scotland? Who preached the faith to the Southern Scots? Where did he prepare himself for his*

CHRIST. He died in 432. St. Columba, a holy Irish abbot, went with twelve others to the Northern Picts in 565, and preached among them for thirty-four years, converting the greater part of them to the true faith. He founded the famous monastery of Ycolmkill, and died in 597.

42. CONVERSION OF FRANCE.—In France, the Christian religion had been preached during the first and second centuries, by Eastern missionaries, who were sent thither by the Popes; and it produced many saints and martyrs; but the inroads and wars of barbarous nations checked its progress for a while. At the end of the fifth century, Clovis, King of the Franks, who had married Clotilda, a Christian, was attacked by an army of Pagans from Germany, and when on the point of being defeated, he made a vow to become a Christian if he conquered his enemy. God gave him the victory; he and three thousand of his warriors were baptized on Christmas-day, in 496, at Rheims, by St. Remigius, who was made Archbishop of that city and Primate of all France, by Pope Symmachus, and at the beginning of the sixth century, the whole nation was converted to the Catholic faith.

43. CONVERSION OF GERMANY AND THE NEIGHBOURING NATIONS.—Germany and the surrounding countries were also converted by missionaries sent by the

mission? Who preached to the Northern Scots, and what countryman was he? How many years did he preach? What famous monastery did he found?

42. When was the Christian faith first preached in France? By whom were the missionaries sent? Did the Christian religion produce much fruit there? What was the name of the first Christian king of France? Where was he baptized, and by whom? Who appointed St. Remigius archbishop? When was the French nation entirely converted?

Popes, in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth centuries. St. Severinus was the Apostle of Austria, and died in 482. St. Columban (D. 615) and his disciple, St. Gall (D. 646), both natives of Ireland, preached in Switzerland. St. Kilian, a holy Irish monk, with his companions Colman and Tolman, were sent by Pope Conon to preach the Gospel in Franconia. This Pope created St. Kilian Bishop, and the holy missionaries, after converting and baptizing great numbers, were martyred in 688. St. Willibrord was sent by Pope Sergius, in 696, to convert the Heathens about the Lower Rhine. He was made Archbishop of Utrecht by the same Pope, and died there in 740. He established the Christian faith in Holland, Friesland, and other parts of the Netherlands. The most famous of all the missionaries in Germany was St. Boniface, who has justly obtained the glorious name of "The Apostle of the Germans." He was an Englishman, born at Crediton, in Devonshire, in 680, and he was a monk at Exeter. In 719, he went to Rome, with leave of his Abbot, and Pope Gregory II. sent him with authority to preach the faith to all the infidel nations of Germany. He baptized and converted many thousands of them, and destroyed their idols and temples. He returned to Rome in a few years, and, in 732, he was created Archbishop and Primate of all Germany, by Gregory III. He selected, with the Pope's leave, the city of

43. In what centuries was Germany converted, and by whom? Who was the apostle of Austria? Who were St. Columban and St. Gall, and where did they preach? What is related of St. Kilian and his companions? Where did St. Willibrord preach the faith, and by what Pope was he sent? Who was the most famous of the missionaries in Germany, and what countryman was he? What glorious name has he been honoured with? What success attended his preaching? By what Pope was he made Primate of all

Mentz for his archiepiscopal see, and in order to imbue the whole nation with the spirit of meekness and Christian piety, he built churches and founded abbeys and monasteries for monks, and convents for holy virgins, and he invited many holy persons from England to assist him in the good work. He at length, by leave of the Pope, resigned his see and chose St. Lullus for his successor, and whilst engaged in preaching and converting the Heathens, he was martyred in 755. St. Anscharius, a French monk, was sent by Pope Gregory IV. to convert the Danes and Swedes, and he baptized great numbers. He was consecrated Archbishop of Hamburg and Bremen by the Pope, and was made Legate of the Holy See for all the North; and after preaching thirty-five years, he died at Bremen in 865. Hungary was brought to the faith in the tenth century, by missionaries sent by the Holy See; and under St. Stephen, the pious king of Hungary, the nation was entirely converted, and Archbishops and Bishops were appointed by Pope Silvester II. Pope Nicholas I. sent Bishops who preached in Bulgaria, and the king and nation were converted to the true faith in the ninth century. Pope John VIII. sent St. Methodius, whom he made Archbishop, to convert the Slavonians in the same century; and the Russians received the faith about the same time, from mission-

Germany? What city did he choose for his archiepiscopal see? What did he do to imbue the Germans with Christian piety? When was he martyred? Who was sent by the Pope to convert the Danes and Swedes? Of what cities was he Archbishop, and when did he die? When was Hungary converted? What Christian king was instrumental in establishing the Catholic faith there? Who sent Bishops to the Bulgarians, and when was the nation converted? Who preached Christianity to the Slavonians? From whom did the Russians receive the faith, and when?

aries in communion with Rome, sent by the Holy Patriarch of Constantinople, St. Ignatius, in 867.

44. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THE CONVERTER OF THE NATIONS.—Thus was the Christian religion spread over Europe. The mission of preaching the Gospel to all nations was, by GOD's protecting power, most successful. As the Apostles under St. Peter, in the first age of the Church, had carried the true faith to different parts of the earth, so did the Christian missionaries under the Pope preach the Gospel to the nations of Europe. The work of converting mankind to the truth was accomplished by the Catholic Church, to which alone GOD had confided the care of teaching His religion to the nations; and in no case have the Heretics succeeded in bringing nations to the Gospel.

45. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MONASTERIES.—As soon as the Apostles of the several parts of Europe had settled in a country, they set about erecting monasteries, as has been already noticed in preceding paragraphs. In these sanctuaries of religion, holy men dwelt in prayer and retirement, and then came forth to spread Divine truth over the country. Schools were established in them for the education of Priests and the children of the faithful, in which the sciences were taught and flourished. The monks also by their holiness and knowledge, taught even the barbarians among whom they dwelt, to leave off their savage customs, and to follow peaceful and useful

44. What made the preaching to the nations successful? In what were the Christian missionaries like the Apostles? Can any but the Catholic Church convert nations, and why not?

45 *What did the missionaries do when they had settled in a country? Who lived in the monasteries? How did the monks civilize the barbarians? What did they teach*

occupations. They taught them agriculture, trades, and the mechanical arts, and other appliances of domestic life. By the industry and labour of the monks, deserts were changed into the richest pastures, and the darkest forests into pleasant abodes. They bestowed great charity upon the poor, and made the countries happy wherever they settled. In all respects they were amongst the greatest benefactors of mankind. The wise and great monarchs of Europe, who had at heart the propagation and prosperity of the Christian Church, founded many of these monasteries. Alfred the Great of England and Charlemagne of France did so. Some of the most famous monasteries in England were Glastonbury Abbey, Lindisfarne, Croyland, and Westminster Abbey.

46. THE ORIGIN OF THE POPE'S EARTHLY DOMINION.—As the Church extended its authority and civilizing influence among the nations, it naturally acquired the greatest respect and veneration. Great possessions of land were granted to it, for the maintenance of the Clergy, the celebration of Divine service, and the relief of the poor. The Bishops of Rome, or the Popes, the successors of St. Peter, especially on account of their supreme authority in the Church of CHRIST, and the important services they rendered to society, received large gifts of land in Italy and elsewhere, which were called "the Patrimony of St. Peter." Over these and other possessions, the

them? Were the monks idle? Have they benefited mankind, and how? What monarchs interested themselves about monasteries? Name some of the old monasteries of England.

46. Was the Church much respected, and why? Why did the Church receive gifts of land? What acknowledgments did the Popes receive for the benefits they conferred upon mankind? What were the Popes' possessions called?

Popes afterwards acquired a right of sovereignty. It happened that when the barbarians invaded Italy, the Roman emperors, who had gone to live at Constantinople, could not defend those parts from their attacks. The barbarians, out of respect for the Popes, as may be seen in the case of Attila and Pope St. Leo, sometimes ceased from their devastations, but the emperors gradually lost their power in Italy, and they could not any longer protect their subjects from the evils of war. In 568, Alboin, King of the Lombards, invaded Italy, and in 570, he established his kingdom at Pavia. The Italians were then still more oppressed, and being quite abandoned by the emperors in the eighth century, they acted upon their undoubted rights, and chose several leaders among themselves, for their own government and defence. Accordingly the Popes, and especially Gregory II., were chosen to be the rulers and defenders of Rome and the adjacent states. The Lombards, however, still vexed the Italians so much, that they were obliged to take further steps to defend themselves. The Popes who, by their great spiritual dignity and sanctity, as well as by the authority they had acquired in Rome through the confidence and choice of the people, held a most prominent position in Italy; and they were called upon to act in the emergency. Pope Stephen III. sought assistance from the emperor, but could not obtain it. He then implored the help of Pepin, King of France, who granted his request.

How did they become temporal sovereigns? Did the Popes preserve Rome and Italy from the barbarians? Were the Emperors able to defend the Italians? Who oppressed the Italians from the sixth to the eighth centuries? *What did the Italians do when the Emperors abandoned them? What Pope especially was chosen by the Italian for their ruler? Did the Pope still try and seek to*

Pepin marched into Italy at the head of his army, conquered the Lombards, delivered the Italians from their oppressors, and then restored the temporal authority of the Popes in Rome and the adjacent countries. After a time, the Lombards again invaded the Papal territories, and Pope Adrian asked the assistance of Charlemagne, son of Pepin, who routed the invaders in 774, confirmed the Popes in the territories that Pepin had restored to them, and thus firmly established their temporal sovereignty. Although the Popes then became earthly sovereigns, their elevation to that dignity did not increase or contribute to their spiritual power. It enabled them to govern the Church with greater freedom than if placed under the dominion of any prince, who might molest or restrain them by his power, from their high and holy mission of converting and civilizing the world. If in the designs of GOD'S Providence, the Popes should again be deprived of their dominions, their spiritual power will still remain to the end of time.

47. RISE OF MAHOMETANISM.—Whilst the Christian faith was thus propagated and established in the West with the most gratifying success, most fatal and deplorable disturbances arose in the East. The dif-

assistance of the Emperor against the Lombards, and with what success? Who came to help the Italians? How did Pepin succeed? What did Pepin restore to the Popes? What other King defeated the Lombards, and what did he do for the Popes? Did the temporal sovereignty of the Popes produce or increase their spiritual power? What advantages are derived from it? If the Pope were to lose his earthly dominions, would not his spiritual power still remain?

47. What evils did the Eastern heresies produce? How Did God punish the Christians who had fallen away from

1118 Laws, and as He had punished His Church by the incursion of t
now He permitted a punishment
generate Christians. In the beginni
century, an arrogant impostor, call
peared in Arabia. He pretended t
from GOD, and formed a new rel
Christian and Jewish doctrines. H
some disciples around him, and pr
doctrine was to be propagated by th
head of a band of robbers and murde
the cities and provinces of Arabia, a
habitants by threats of death to a
His successors, who were called S
the same sanguinary course, and t
tine, Egypt, and Persia. They brou
these conquered countries, barbarism
They desolated the Eastern Church
fallen away, and they reduced the d
tian inhabitants to the most disg
The S

FROM THE GREEK SCHISM TO THE RISE OF
PROTESTANTISM.

A.D. 866—1517.

48. THE GREEK SCHISM.—Besides these persecutions by the infidel Saracens which GOD permitted, another evil arose to disturb the Church in the Greek Empire. From the time that the emperors had resided at Constantinople, the Bishops of that city had, with some exceptions, tried to exercise greater authority than became them. They thought that because they were Bishops of the Imperial City, they were to rule the Church, and in this they were encouraged by the emperors, who sometimes sided with the Eastern Heretics, and sought the support of these Bishops in their disobedience to the decrees of the Holy See. One of them called John "the Faster" usurped the title of Universal Bishop, but he was condemned by Pope Gregory the Great. The spirit of pride that had once taken root, together with the numerous errors which had sprung up in the East as the consequences of such pride, caused a frequent spirit of disobedience against the authority of the Popes; and at length Photius, in the ninth century, usurped the see of Constantinople, against the decision of Pope Nicholas I., audaciously pronounced excommunication against the Holy Pontiff, and so formally began the Greek Schism. (866). A strong antipathy sprung up against the Holy See, and a general depravity in principle and morals grew up among the emperors and people, which threatened to bring about a final separation. This was at last accom-

48. How did the Greeks fall into Schism? What was it that made them disobey the Popes? What Bishop of Constantinople usurped a wrong title, and by whom was he condemned? What Bishop formally began the Gre

plished in 1054, when Michael Cerularius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, fell into the most grievous errors, and involved the Greek Church in the Schism that has lasted to this day.

49. CONTESTS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.—The Church of CHRIST had now to encounter other trials. All the efforts of the Heretics and Schismatics had not been able to stay its progress, which had been visible to the world for a thousand years. But fresh difficulties awaited it, over which it was nevertheless to triumph. Some of the sovereigns of those nations which the Church had converted to Christianity, fell away from the piety of their ancestors, and stimulated by a wicked desire of interfering in the management of the Church, claimed as their privilege the right of appointing the Bishops and abbots in their dominions. They also seized on the possessions of the Church, and sought to withdraw from the Clergy the immunities which had been granted to them by the laws. These attacks upon the Church were met with the greatest firmness and patience by the Popes, to whom, as the chief champions of the Church, the care of defending it belonged. This gave rise to the contests of "Investitures" and "Immunities," which caused great scandal to religion, owing to the stubbornness of the wicked sovereigns; and it was only after hard trials, that the Church gained the victory. The Emperor Henry IV. of Germany was the most turbulent of these assailants

Schism, and how? When was it fully accomplished, and by whom?

49. Had the Heretics and Schismatics been able to stop the Church's progress? Whence did the new difficulties arise? Have sovereigns any right to interfere in the management of the Church, or to appoint Bishops? What other injustice did they commit, and how did the Popes meet it? What were these contests called? How did Henry t

of the Church's rights. He conferred at his pleasure bishoprics and abbeys on the most unworthy persons, and even sold them. He also sequestrated the revenues of the different sees. Pope St. Gregory VII., known by the name of Hildebrand, courageously opposed his authority to such usurpations. Henry resisted the paternal admonitions of the Pope, and proceeded so far in his wickedness, that he was excommunicated; when the Church recovered the freedom of appointing Bishops according to its right. In England too the same abuses arose. The kings would not permit Bishops to be appointed except by royal authority, and sacrilegiously seized the episcopal revenues. St. Anselm reproved King William Rufus for such enormities, and after that monarch's death, his successor Henry yielded to the decision of the Holy See. Some time after this the former disputes were revived: Henry II. attacked the inviolable rights of the Church, in defence of which he was resisted by St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, who by his firmness so enraged the King, that he caused him to be murdered. St. Thomas thus gained the crown of martyrdom (1170), in defence of the Church's rights; and the cause he maintained triumphed after his death, by the King solemnly renouncing his unjust claims, and restoring to the Church the lands he had usurped.

50. THE CRUSADES.—In the East the Church had to suffer exceedingly from the cruelty of the Saracen

Fourth of Germany behave, and what holy Pope condemned him? What King of England was reproved by St. Anselm for wronging the Church? Did Henry the Second of England act fairly to the Church? What was the cause of St. Thomas of Canterbury's martyrdom, and *when* was he murdered? Did the Church succeed after all?

50. How did the Saracens treat the Christians? What

Europe, to a Council held at Clermont (1095), and an army was sent to the true faith against the Infidels. conquered the Saracens, and gained Jerusalem in 1099. Godfrey of Bouillon King of that city, but this kingdom lasted but a hundred years. The treachery of the Latins, and want of discipline, and disunion among them, rendered it impossible to resist the attacks of the Turks, who, having displaced the Latins, increased their conquests, persecuted the Christians, and increased fury. The Popes, in their interests of religion, vainly endeavoured to unite the princes of Europe to union and enclose the foes of Christianity, and, after some successes and reverses, the Turks completed the conquest of the Greek empire. They took Constantinople, and their triumph over the Greeks was permitted by God, in punishment for the wickedness, by which they had incurred the wrath of Heaven.

to combat for the faith, especially the Knights of St. John, afterwards called the Knights of Malta, who, relying on GOD's assistance and strengthened by His power, saved Catholic Europe from the fierce tyranny of the Turks. Many battles were fought, and at length, by the perseverance of the Popes, and the evident help of the Blessed Virgin, in the battle of Lepanto (1571), the Turks were entirely repulsed.

51. THE MIDDLE AGES AND RELIGIOUS ORDERS. — The intercourse that the Western people had with the Greeks in the holy wars, roused them to a more vigorous exercise of their mental powers, and assisted to produce a new spiritual life. During the destructive migration of the nations described above (§ 38), and afterwards in the calamities of Europe, the sciences had found an asylum in the monasteries; but now they were propagated among the multitudes who were desirous of learning. Famous schools and universities were established, and men of wonderful erudition and wisdom, as St. Anselm, (D. 1109;) Albertus Magnus, (D. 1280;) St. Bonaventure, (D. 1274;) and St. Thomas of Aquino, (D. 1274,) occupied the chairs of teaching. Those times however, which are known as "The Middle Ages," are still more renowned for the lustre of Christian virtues, for firmness of faith, for childlike simplicity, and for the ardent love of GOD and man. Even to the present day one beholds with

arousing the Christians to defend Europe? Did the Blessed Virgin help the Christians? In what battle were the Turks finally repulsed?

51. Did the Western nations derive any advantage from their intercourse with the Greeks? Where had the sciences been preserved during the calamities of Europe? What did the Church do for the education of the people? What learned men taught in the universities? What are the middle ages so remarkable for? What was the moving principle

surprise and admiration, those ancient vast cathedrals, churches, hospitals, and noble charitable institutions, which were erected by the piety of our ancestors in those ages. One is astonished and delighted with the paintings and sculpture so full of expression and devotion, with which they adorned the buildings consecrated to GOD. Such great and heart-stirring works could only have been produced by the religion which filled their hearts, and governed all their actions. This same religion also poured out the greatest blessings over the earth, through the religious orders which were then founded by St. Romuald, (D. 1027;) St. Bruno, (D. 1101;) St. Norbert, (D. 1134;) St. Bernard, (D. 1153;) St. Dominic, (D. 1221;) St. Francis of Assisium, surnamed the Seraphic, (D. 1226;) and other holy men. The numerous monasteries which they established, not only produced many great saints and enlightened prelates, but they also cherished religious zeal and piety among all classes of the people; they relieved the wants of the poor, they sheltered and nursed the sick, and they redeemed captives and slaves. They also supplied missionaries for all parts of the world, and by their holiness and devout prayers, they obtained abundant graces from heaven on all countries and nations in which they dwelt.

52. THE CHURCH'S OPPOSITION TO ERROR AND WICKEDNESS.—Amidst all this prosperity, there appeared nevertheless an exuberant growth of cockle among the wheat in the field of GOD. (St. Matt. 13.) There were pernicious feuds and wars, acts of violence and injustice, and many scandals, which the Church

of the actions of those times? Through whom did the Church pour out blessings on the earth? Who were their *founders*? Did the monasteries benefit mankind, and how?

52. *What disturbances took place about this time? Had pride and disobedience anything to do with these*

used every effort to suppress and remedy, and in proportion as her voice and authority were listened to, did these outrages cease. But bad principles of disobedience and pride gained ground, and new Heretics arose, who not only rejected the authority of the Church, but also revolted against the secular power. The Albigenses in France, the Waldenses in Italy, the Wickliffites, or Lollards, in England, the Hussites in Bohemia, are instances of this. By great efforts they were subdued, and peace was restored to the Church. Holy men who were mighty in word and in deed, as St. Vincent Ferrer, (D. 1419) and St. John Capistran, (D. 1456,) went every where preaching penance to princes and people. But the unholy fire was only hidden under the ashes, and not extinguished. Feelings of hostility and disrespect to the Church, and desires of innovation had gained ground, which were increased by many other attendant evils. An opportunity was only wanted for the volcano of wickedness and rebellion against GOD's Church to break forth; and this presented itself in Germany, in the beginning of the sixteenth century. Then the lamentable evil spread like a contagious disease: many thousands disobeyed and left the Church, and sad consequences ensued. The bond of religion and charity being broken, men fell into all sorts of sin and crime. Bloody wars, revolutions, corruption of public and private morals, destruction and ruin of the most splendid establishments that the piety of former ages had reared, took place; and unspeakable misery was prepared for many both in time and eternity.

evils? What Heretics rebelled against the civil power? Who preached to the people to convert them? What feelings and desires caused the outbreak of wickedness? Was it possible to restrain the evil passions of men without religion? When did the outbreak take place, and what did it cause?

FROM THE RISE OF PROTESTANTISM TO POPE
PIUS IX.

A.D. 1517—1854.

53. LUTHER AND HIS ERRORS.—Martin Luther, a professor at Wittenberg, and a man of the most turbulent disposition, was the chief author of the Protestant doctrine. He began by exclaiming against the abuses which some imprudent persons had committed with regard to indulgences, 1517. But soon after he arbitrarily set himself up as a reformer of the Church, and inveighed against the ecclesiastical authorities, especially the Pope, whose supreme power established by CHRIST, he denounced as usurpation and tyranny, and which he vainly said he would soon bring to a miserable end. Persisting in his wickedness, he rejected as errors many articles of faith, which the Church had received from CHRIST and His Apostles. Thus he discarded the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Confession, Prayers for the Dead, Fasting, and many other pious practices; he declared good works to be useless, and taught that man is justified and saved by faith alone. Moreover he threw open the monasteries and convents, and said that the monks and nuns, who had made vows to GOD of perpetual chastity, were free to marry; he maintained that sovereigns and princes have the right of confiscating the property of convents and churches, and of appropriating it to their own uses. Finally he broke the vow of chastity, which he had solemnly made as a monk and

53. Who was the chief author of Protestantism? What sort of a man was he? How did he begin his conflict with the Church? Did he stop there? How did he behave to the Pope? How did he treat several articles of Christian Faith? What did he permit the monks and nuns to do? What pretended right did he give the sovereigns?

as a priest, he took a wicked nun for his companion, and led a life of the grossest immorality. Luther boasted that he took his doctrine from the Bible only, which he interpreted by the false spirit of private judgment, and consequently he soon fell into the most palpable contradictions and errors. Thus he asserted that a man has no free will, and consequently can neither keep the commandments, nor avoid evil; and that sin does not condemn man if he firmly believe, and similar horrid doctrines. Nevertheless he soon obtained many followers, for the thoughtless multitude were very much pleased at such easy doctrines that allowed them to lead dissolute lives; and the grasping sovereigns and princes liked nothing better than the robbery and suppression of monasteries and churches, which Luther sanctioned. Besides this, Luther took every opportunity of increasing his party at the expense of virtue, and he even permitted the Landgrave of Hesse to take a second wife while his first one was still alive.

54. WICKED DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES OF THE REFORMERS.—The path of error having been thus once opened by Luther, several others followed him, and went even further than he did. Zwinglius in Switzerland, denied the real presence of JESUS CHRIST in the Holy Eucharist. Calvin at Geneva, taught that GOD had predestined a part of mankind without any fault of theirs, to eternal damnation. The Anabaptists proclaimed a kingdom of CHRIST on earth, in

princes? Was his conduct edifying? Whence did he pretend to take his doctrine? How did he interpret the Bible? Can you mention any of his errors? Why did the princes and people receive his doctrines? What did he do to gain the favour of the Landgrave of Hesse?

54. Did any one imitate Luther's example? What errors did Zwinglius teach? What errors did Cal

which there was to be no private property, no law, no magistrates. Zwinglius, Calvin, and other sectarians, also totally demolished in the churches, what had been spared by Luther. The pictures and images of the Crucified Redeemer, of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints, many of them masterpieces of art, were torn and broken. The altars and organs were removed and destroyed, even the shrines of the saints were pillaged, and the sacred relics trampled upon and burnt. These pretended reformers soon however began to quarrel among themselves, and they excommunicated one another; but their different doctrines spread most rapidly, for they contrived all sorts of means to disseminate their false teaching. They published writings without end, containing the greatest errors and contradictions about religion, in order to confuse and mislead men's minds; and the Pope and the Catholic Clergy were most virulently attacked and calumniated in these works, so that their warning voice might not be listened to. In many places also the greatest acts of violence were committed, and the people who would not renounce the Catholic faith, suffered all sorts of oppression and persecution.

55. DREADFUL RESULTS OF PROTESTANTISM IN EUROPE.—The Catholics on their part made several attempts to restore peace to the Church by proposing amicable discussions with the Protestants; but the hatred which Luther bore to the Pope, the Head of the Church, was implacable. At length the Holy

teach? What did the Anabaptists maintain? Did the sectarians respect the churches? How did they agree among themselves? Did the dissensions among them prevent the spread of their doctrines? What means did they employ to spread their teaching?

55. What did the Catholics do for the restoration of peace, and what was the result? What measures did the

Father convoked a General Council at Trent, in the Tyrol, in the year 1545. The doctrine of the innovators was there carefully examined, and unanimously condemned as false; and the Council issued many other very excellent decrees concerning ecclesiastical affairs and the correction of abuses, which gave a fresh triumph and vigour to the Church. The Protestants had been repeatedly invited to the Council, for they had expressed a wish for it in the beginning, in order to adjust their differences; but they refused to appear at Trent. They would not submit to the decisions of the Church, and so the unhappy Schism continued, and brought endless calamities over the greater part of Europe. Luther having preached a false liberty, and having reviled the emperor, princes, and bishops, the peasants very soon rose in rebellion against their sovereigns and lords. They traversed the country in lawless bands, they burnt down the castles and the monasteries, and they committed the most horrible cruelties against the nobility and Clergy. More than one hundred thousand persons were slain during this frightful insurrection. Religious wars ensued, and Germany, where the discord began, and which once had been so flourishing, became at last the scene of the most frightful desolation and atrocities during the thirty years' war (1618—1648). Other countries too, that had embraced the new doctrine, were also devastated by the religious and civil wars that every where accompanied the apostacy from the Catholic Church. Zwinglius fell on the field of

Holy See take? When was the Council of Trent held, and what was done by it? What did the Church gain by this Council? Did the Protestants come to the Council? What was the effect of Luther's preaching liberty? What occurred during the war of the peasantry? How long did the great religious war last in Germany? Were other countries

battle, whilst fighting against his own countrymen in Switzerland. In France the Calvinists, called Huguenots, raised a large army; they ravaged cities and villages, and remained in open antagonism with the Crown and the Church for many years. In their fury against the true religion, they massacred numbers of priests, monks, and nuns, with the most cruel and unheard of torments, and they burnt, or pulled down thousands of Christian churches, some of which were most magnificent works of art.

56. BEGINNING OF PROTESTANTISM IN ENGLAND.—England also unhappily fell into the apostasy under Henry VIII. (1509—47.) He rebelled against the Catholic Church because the Pope would not allow him to repudiate his lawful wife Catherine, and marry Anne Boleyn. Henry therefore denied the Pope's supremacy, and having declared himself the supreme head of the Church of England, he plundered and suppressed nearly all the monasteries and religious houses in the kingdom, and shared the spoils with his courtiers. He had two of his six wives beheaded, and about twelve hundred people of distinction killed, amongst whom were the good and learned Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and Sir Thomas More, the Lord Chancellor. The English people resisted Henry's wicked attempts to change their religion, but they were put down by the King's soldiery. What had been left undone by Henry, was completed under his son Edward VI., (1547—53)

involved in such wars? What were the French Protestants called, and what wickedness did they commit?

56. Who introduced Protestantism into England, and for what reason? What authority did he usurp? What did he do with the Church's property? How many persons did he have killed? Who were the most famous of his victims? How did the people like the attempt to change their religion? Did Edward VI. continue the

who was only nine years old when he began to reign. The Holy Mass was abolished; the churches and monasteries were entirely deprived of their property; the Priests were told they might marry; the Protestant "Book of Common Prayer" and the Forty-two Articles of Protestant belief were compiled; the Catholic Bishops and Priests were ejected from their sees and parishes; foreign Protestants were brought over to teach the people the false doctrines; and foreign mercenary troops were engaged to force the Protestant religion and its practices on the reluctant people.

57. QUEEN MARY RESTORES THE CATHOLIC RELIGION.—At Edward VI.'s death, Mary (1553—58), the daughter of Henry VIII., by his wife, Catherine of Aragon, succeeded to the crown; and though she found the service and ritual of the Catholic religion entirely abolished throughout the kingdom, the belief had still kept possession of the hearts of very many both Clergy and Laity; and so the Catholic religion was restored without much opposition, and England returned to her ancient obedience to the Holy See. As the Protestant heresy and sedition went hand in hand, the old statutes against heresy were revived in Mary's reign, and several Protestants were tried and executed for their wicked conduct; but these were very few in comparison to the Catholics who were put to death for religion's sake under Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Elizabeth.

Protestant innovations? What happened to the Church during his reign? How did he try to establish Protestantism?

57. Had the English people abandoned the Catholic faith in their hearts? Who restored the Catholic religion? Were the Protestants seditious in Mary's reign? Did Mary treat them with the same severity as Elizabeth treated the Catholics?

58. ELIZABETH PERSECUTES THE CATHOLICS, AND ESTABLISHES PROTESTANTISM.—Mary was succeeded by Elizabeth. (1558—1603.) She had been a Protestant during the reign of Edward VI., and became a Catholic during the reign of Mary, to whom she once declared, "That she prayed God that the earth might open and swallow her alive, if she were not a true Roman Catholic." She was crowned according to the Catholic ritual, and she solemnly swore she would profess and defend the Catholic religion. Notwithstanding all this, she soon began to persecute the Catholics. Shortly after her coronation, a series of Acts of Parliament were passed, in which the supremacy of the Holy See, as appointed by CHRIST, was denied, and the Queen was declared to be supreme head of the Church. The Bishops and Clergy raised their voices against such erroneous doctrine; but the Queen deprived them of their churches, and imprisoned them, and put many of them to death. By such acts of injustice and cruelty, and by a contagious disease that carried off many of the Clergy at that time, the people were left almost without religious instruction, and thus became the prey of the false teachers. Elizabeth appointed some Protestants for Bishops and Priests, but of course they were not real Bishops and Priests, and had no authority; for they were not consecrated and ordained as the Church had appointed, and in the way in which the Apostles had established the first Bishops and Priests. (§ 31.) They served, however, to perform the Protestant

58. Did Elizabeth always profess herself a Protestant? How did she keep her promise to defend the Catholic religion? What article of Christian faith did the *Parliament* abrogate? How did the Clergy receive the false doctrine? How were the people deprived of their religious instruction? How was the place of the Catholic Clergy *applied*? Were the new Bishops real Bishops, and why?

worship, and as they got possession of the old Catholic churches and their revenues, they usurped the place of the Catholic real Bishops and Clergy, who, for a thousand years, had taught the English people to know and love GOD. They then introduced new services, instead of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, that was instituted by CHRIST, and had been commanded by Him to be celebrated in the Church, as the highest act of Christian worship. The Book of Common Prayer was the new service-book. It had been altered and amended since it had been first composed by Cranmer, and it was blasphemously ascribed, with all these changes, to the dictates of the HOLY GHOST. Thirty-nine of the forty-two Articles were retained, as the code of faith of the new religion, and measures were taken to secure its observance. All persons were compelled to take the oath of supremacy, under pain of death; that is to say, they had to acknowledge, in opposition to the Word of GOD, that the Queen was the supreme head of the Church; and they had to renounce the authority of the Pope, and the Catholic religion, or to die. To prevent any Priests from coming to instruct the people in the old faith, Elizabeth made it high treason for a Priest to come into the kingdom from abroad; and any one who harboured or relieved a Priest incurred the same penalty. Many holy Priests were thus martyred under the most cruel torments, and hundreds of Catholics were killed in the most barbarous manner for these

not? Could they teach the people as the Catholic Clergy had done? How did they treat the services appointed by CHRIST? What new code of faith did they make? How were those treated who refused to leave the Catholic faith? *What did Elizabeth do to prevent any Priests from coming to instruct the people? Were many Catholics murdered under Elizabeth?*

and other similar reasons. The Catholics were compelled to attend the Protestant worship, under enormous penalties, even of death itself, in case they persisted in refusing.

59. PROTESTANTISM IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.—Elizabeth, not content with establishing the new religion in England, set intrigues on foot to introduce Protestantism into Scotland. John Knox, a wicked fanatic, encouraged by this, preached the doctrines of Calvin in that country, and raised a persecution against the Catholics by the same unjust means that had been put in practice in England. The monasteries and churches were destroyed, and the Presbyterian form of religion, or a pretended Church without Bishops, was formed. Most cruel laws, too, were introduced against the Catholics in Ireland. English and German Protestants were sent over there, and the estates of the Catholics were confiscated, and given to these intruders; but the new religion never could make the same progress in Ireland as it had done in England and Scotland; and the Irish have remained firm and devoted to the Catholic faith through centuries of persecution.

60. SAD CONSEQUENCES OF PROTESTANTISM IN ENGLAND.—The calamities that had ensued upon the introduction of Protestantism into the countries of Europe, also befell the English nation. Insurrections and slaughter of the people, poverty and misery, were

59. Who was the chief preacher of Protestantism in Scotland? How did the Scotch Protestants treat the Catholics and their churches? What peculiar form of religion did they establish? How was Protestantism introduced into Ireland? How were the Catholics treated there? Did the new religion make much progress in Ireland? Did the Irish retain their faith during the long persecution?

60. What calamities fell upon the English people after they became Protestants? Did they dispute about religi

the first results of the change of religion. Disputes about doctrines, in which the Puritans were the most violent, ensued; disaffection to authority gained ground; rebellion broke out; civil wars took place; and at last the people put the king, Charles I., to death. Corruption of morals and licentiousness spread, and great evils happened. A pestilential plague carried off numerous victims in London; the City itself was burnt by a great fire; and poverty increased so fearfully throughout the land, that laws had to be passed making it compulsory upon the rich to contribute to the support of the poor. While the Catholic Faith was the religion of England, none of these miseries occurred; but when the apostasy took place, these and other calamities happened; as a warning for future ages not to disobey the Church, which GOD had commanded mankind to hear, under the pain of His displeasure.

61. INCREASE OF THE CHURCH—CONVERSION OF CHINA AND JAPAN.—The loss which the Church had suffered from the apostasy in Europe, was amply compensated by the conversion of innumerable Heathens in other parts of the globe. The missionaries sent by the Popes went forth in every direction, and announced the salutary doctrines of the Gospel with admirable success. It is truly wonderful what St. Francis Xavier, the apostle of the Indies, who

among themselves? What crimes did they commit? Did any punishment fall upon them? Was there much poverty, and how was it relieved? Did these miseries occur while England remained Catholic? What lesson does all this teach us?

61. How was the Church compensated for its losses in Europe? Who sent the missionaries to the East? Who was the apostle of the Indies? Where did he preach first, and how did he begin his mission? How did Go

was so eminently favoured by heaven, accomplished. Glowing with zeal for the salvation of the Pagans, he crossed the vast ocean, and landing at Goa in the year 1542, he began his mission by walking through the streets with a bell in his hand, and calling the children to come and be instructed. They joyfully attended and listened to the holy man, who spoke to them with the greatest affection, of their dear Redeemer. When they returned home, they repeated what they had heard, and so induced the grown up people to come and hear the holy missionary. God rewarded his zeal, and granted him, as He had done to the Apostles, the power of healing the sick, of raising the dead to life, of commanding the elements; in short, the power of working the most prodigious miracles. With untiring energy he went from country to country, from island to island, through all India and Japan; and converted, in the short period of ten years, many tribes and kingdoms. He testifies in one of his letters, that in one month he administered Holy Baptism to ten thousand Heathens. After his death, other missionaries continued the pious work, and introduced the religion of Jesus into China, that immense, unknown, and till then inaccessible empire. That these Heathens were truly converted was proved in the most convincing manner, when the persecution of the Christians broke out in Japan and China. In Japan, above one million and one hundred thousand Christians died for their faith, and nearly all of them were put to death under the

reward his zeal? In what other countries did he preach? Did he convert many people? Who continued the work after his death? Where else was the faith preached? *How was the sincerity of the new Christians proved? How many were martyred in Japan? How did they go to martyrdom?*

most horrible tortures. Tender children, weak old men, and delicate women of the highest rank, hastened with joy to martyrdom, dressed in their holiday attire as if they were going to a wedding feast.

62. CONVERSION OF AMERICA, AND HOLINESS OF THE NEW CHRISTIANS.—As soon as the Spaniards discovered America, they thought of making the blessings of Christianity known to the natives. Missionaries were accordingly sent by the Holy See; the light of the Gospel spread, and idolatry, with its horrors and vices, was overthrown. The Americans offered up more human sacrifices than any people on earth. In Mexico they sacrificed about twenty thousand victims every year, and when they had no captives for this purpose, they did not even spare their own children. It is almost impossible to describe what the heroic missionaries suffered, and what dangers they incurred among those cruel savages. Besides having to struggle against the cruelties and vices of the natives, they had also to contend against the insatiable avarice of the European settlers. Yet their labours were crowned with success, and the Christian faith was firmly and permanently established on that continent. The mission of Paraguay in South America especially flourished. The natives, who lived like wild beasts in the forests,—who thought only of plundering, murdering, and revenge,—who only delighted in eating human flesh, in voluptuousness and drunkenness,—were transformed into devout

62. How were the blessings of Christianity made known to the Americans? Did the Gospel spread there? What horrid sacrifices did the Americans offer up before they were converted? Had the Christian missionaries to suffer much, and from whom? What mission flourished the most? What was the effect of Christianity upon the savages?

THE CHURCH.—The holy themselves, even to the shedding with such indefatigable zeal, to the Pagans in America and the East most part to the religious orders, Franciscans, and Jesuits. And those others who planted the Paraguay, were Jesuits. This order was founded in 1540, by St. Ignatius of Loyola, with the most ardent zeal for the honour of God. The Jesuits exerted themselves especially in propagating the Catholic faith, and defending it against the followers of the new-fangled doctrine. In consequence, they drew upon themselves many and grievous persecutions from the Pagan and Protestant Clergy. GOD also raised other orders for the purpose of acting in concert with the Clergy, to stop the progress of error and the evils caused by Luther and other heretics. The pious Capuchins appeared about this time from the East.

by their affectionate zeal and their austere life. The Oratorians were founded by St. Philip Neri (D. 1595), and by their learning and cheerful piety worked a great improvement in the morals of Catholics in the large cities. The Fathers of the Pious schools, founded by St. Joseph Calasanz, occupied themselves with the instruction of youth, and other religious under St. Camillus of Lellis were instituted to take care of the sick. Religious orders arose also for women, as those of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, the Ursulines, the Nuns of the Good Shepherd, and others, who devoted themselves to train up young girls in piety and a Christian life. This period was also particularly rich in heroes of faith and virtue. St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, (D. 1584,) set a bright example of true Christian charity, by visiting the sick in the most pestilential places and hospitals during the plague, and giving up all his property, even his bed, for the sufferers. St. Francis of Sales, Bishop of Geneva, (D. 1622,) converted seventy-two thousand Savoyards from the errors of Calvin to the true faith, by the irresistible power of his meekness and humility. St. Vincent of Paul (D. 1660) devoted his whole life to the poor and distressed. No misery, of whatever kind, escaped the ardour and abundance of his love. He founded orphanages and foundling hospitals; he established a congregation of missionary Priests, called Lazarists, for the instruction of ignorant country people; and also the admirable

orders were founded for the instruction of the poor and visiting the sick? What religious orders of women arose at this time? Who were the principal Saints of this epoch? Can you tell anything remarkable about St. Charles Borromeo? Did St. Francis of Sales work many conversions? What works of charity did St. Vincent of Paul perform? By what Saints was the female sex particularly

66 PROGRESS OF PROTESTANTISM TO INFIDELITY,

institute of the Sisters of Charity, for nursing the sick. Amongst those most eminent for the sanctity of their lives in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, are the Blessed Canisius, St. John of God, St. John of the Cross, St. Thomas of Villanova, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. Francis Borgia, St. Pius V., St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, and St. Stanislaus Kostka. The female sex was also particularly distinguished by St. Teresa, St. Rose of Lima, St. Angela of Brescia, St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzis, St. Jane Frances of Chantal, St. Catherine of Ricci, &c., &c. In the eighteenth century one of the greatest ornaments of the Catholic Church was St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths, near Naples, (D. 1787,) who established the congregation of the Redemptorists, which has already done so much good in instructing and sanctifying the people. All these saints above mentioned did great deeds; they wrought innumerable miracles by their mighty intercession with GOD, and they are an unanswerable evidence that the true spirit of Christianity, the spirit of Faith, Hope, and Charity, of humility and self-denial, of perfect sanctity, has not departed from the Catholic Church, as the adversaries of our faith falsely assert.

64. PROGRESS OF PROTESTANTISM TO INFIDELITY, AND ATTACKS UPON SOCIETY.—While the Church was thus giving proof to the world of its Divine mission, its unchanging truth and sanctity; Protestantism was rapidly manifesting its human origin, by the variations of its doctrine, and the evil tendency of its

distinguished at this time? When and where did St. Liguori live? What religious order did he found? What did all these Saints particularly do? What did they prove by their works and miracles?

64. *How was the human origin of Protestantism shown? What ensued from their separation from the Church?*

principles. Once separated from the unity of the Church of CHRIST, the Protestants began to be tired of all restraint; and innumerable dissensions ensued. New sects arose, such as Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Quakers, Anglicans, Methodists, Moravians, Independents, and others. Very soon these men would not submit to any authority, and at length they asserted that uncontrolled human reason is the only guide in matters of religion. This gave rise to new errors, and even to the denial of the truth of Christianity itself. Some of the boldest of these freethinkers made a plan to destroy the Christian religion, and France was the principal scene of their wicked efforts. The English Protestants had set them the example by their infidel writings, such as Toland and Bolingbroke: but Voltaire and D'Alembert in France were the chief actors in the scheme for abolishing religion. They were greatly assisted by the Jansenists, a set of Heretics who were secretly allied with the Calvinists. They held the most pernicious tenets, which undermined the foundation of all religion and morality, and they strove to render the observance of the Christian religion impracticable, by rigid doctrines on the Sacraments, and by maintaining the impossibility of obeying the Laws of GOD.

65. PROGRESS OF INFIDELITY AND CONFLICT WITH THE CHURCH.—As Luther and Calvin had done before them, the French Infidels now published a multitude of writings, under the pretence of enlightening mankind; and in these works they scoffed at all holy

What new sects arose? What guide did they propose in religious matters? What did this lead to? What did they then propose doing? Who were the chief actors in this wicked scheme? What Heretics assisted them? What were the errors of the Jansenists?

65. How did the infidels proceed? Did their writings

things, grossly calumniated the Pope and the Clergy, and openly advocated the most shameful licentiousness. Their books, written in most attractive language, and sparkling with satire, found their way too readily among all classes of people; and with them the spirit of profligacy and impiety spread with tremendous rapidity. At the close of the eighteenth century, the enemies of GOD felt themselves powerful enough to execute their horrible plan. They had many great supporters in the local authorities, whom they had gained over, and they were thus helped in their designs. They first attacked the Priesthood, so that they might the more easily scatter the sheep, when they had smitten the shepherd. They then confiscated the Church property, and sold it. The Clergy were forbidden to exercise their functions, and they were imprisoned, or banished. Monks and nuns were driven forth by force from their peaceful abodes, and the religious houses were plundered and ruined. Soon after, a cruel edict was issued against all Priests who remained in the country and persisted in fulfilling their sacred duties. If any one was discovered celebrating the offices of religion, he was cast into a loathsome dungeon, or immediately hanged at the nearest lamp-post; and hundreds of priests were put to death with most cruel torments. When they had got rid of the Bishops and Priests, the churches were profaned and destroyed; the celebration of the Sundays and festivals was forbidden, and the Christian era was abolished. Everything that reminded one of Christianity was destroyed, and finally the madness of these Infidels arrived at such a pitch, that they pro-

advocate wicked practices? How were they spread among the people? When did this happen? Who helped them? Whom did they first attack, and why? How did they treat the Priests? What else did they do to destroy

claimed Reason to be the Supreme Being, and placed a vile woman, as an emblem of it, upon the high altar of the Cathedral at Paris, in the place of the figure of our crucified Redeemer; and they sang hymns of praise in her honour. Order, prosperity, and public safety disappeared together with religion; society was convulsed, and the royal authority was overthrown. As the Puritans had killed King Charles I. in England (1649), so the French Infidels in 1793 beheaded their King Louis XVI., and his wife and sister; and they afterwards murdered his son. France was for two years the scene of the most horrible atrocities, unequalled in the annals of history. Human blood flowed in torrents. Neither age nor sex was spared in the fury of these modern haters of Christianity. The total number of the people slaughtered in this Reign of Terror was nearly two millions. All this was done under the pretence of promoting the happiness of mankind. Enlightenment was their word when they abolished the revealed religion of CHRIST, and Liberty and Equality when they murdered their fellow-men. This wicked frenzy was not confined to France, but it also spread to the neighbouring nations. The French armies overran Europe, destroying religion wherever they went, and bloodshed, anarchy, and oppression everywhere accompanied their wars and conquests. They even invaded the dominions of the Pope, and took the Pope Pius VI. prisoner into France, where he died (1799). The enemies of religion.

Christianity? What did they substitute in the place of God? Was there any prosperity when religion was overthrown? What crimes were perpetrated? How many persons were murdered? What did the Infidels pretend to do all this while? Did infidelity cause much evil in Europe? What became of the Pope? Did the Infidels succeed in destroying the Popedom? Did they at

thought that the Catholic Church was destroyed; but in three months after this, a new Pope, Pius VII., was chosen, and the hopes of the Infidels were defeated. At last the perpetrators of these outrages began to tremble at the sight of such calamities, and in order to stop the anarchy that existed, they debated whether the nation should not once more believe in GOD. In the year 1799, Napoleon became the sovereign ruler of France, and he saw that a nation could not be governed without religion. He therefore restored the Catholic worship in France, and made a solemn Concordat, or treaty with Pope Pius VII. to that effect (1801). The Church did not long enjoy this peace; for Napoleon desired to extort from the Pope certain concessions which could not be granted, and his troops invaded Rome, and carried away Pius VII. prisoner in 1809. But as GOD had visibly protected His Church, ten years before, when Pope Pius VI. died a captive in France, so now He did not abandon it to its enemies. Napoleon was vanquished by the confederate powers of Europe, and the Pope returned triumphantly to Rome (1814). Although nearly all the former institutions of Europe had been changed or destroyed during the long wars of the French Revolution, the Catholic Church still remained firm and unshaken. Nothing but the divinely founded Church could stand the shock which had shattered every other institution in Europe. It emerged from the trial even more vigorous than before, and Pius IX., the 258th successor of St. Peter, still rules the Church of CHRIST with undiminished authority.

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come to their senses? What made Napoleon restore the Catholic religion in France? Did he remain faithful to the Church? How did GOD protect the Church? Which was the only institution that the Infidels could not subvert? How many Popes have there been?

66. MIRACULOUS EXISTENCE AND PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH.—By this terrible French Revolution, and by the other calamities that have been related, Divine Providence showed the world, what misery and wretchedness befall mankind, when they leave God by denying the Catholic Faith. Unfortunately, this warning was not generally regarded, and the pretended enlightening system of the French freethinkers was adopted in other countries. The ancient and venerable institutions were consequently overthrown, monastic and conventual houses were suppressed, the authority and influence of the Church diminished, its rights derogated, its benefits and blessings disowned, and infidelity with its pernicious principles was publicly taught in the universities. But Almighty God has not ceased to protect His Church, and to glorify it with continual miracles. The greatest miracle is the continual spreading of the Church in all parts of the world, notwithstanding the great and numerous obstacles that are everywhere thrown in its way. This is peculiarly striking in North America, where, in the United States alone, forty-two dioceses, with monasteries, colleges, and other pious institutions have been founded within the last fifty years. In Canada also, several new Bishoprics have been created by the Pope. In Australia, an Archbishopric and twelve Bishoprics have been erected by the Holy See, and the same supreme authority in the Church has established a hierarchy of Bishops in Holland. In England, after

66. What has Providence shown to the world by permitting the French revolution? Was the Divine warning attended to everywhere? What resulted from this neglect? How did God protect His Church? What great miracle does the Catholic Church constantly present to mankind? How has the Church progressed in America? Has the Pope erected any Episcopal sees in Australia?

progress of the Catholic Faith. Pope Pius IX., created in 1850 twelve dioceses in England. Those of Westminster, and the dioceses of Birmingham, Clifton, Hexham, Liverpool, Newport, Northampton, Nottingham, Shrewsbury. Catholic convents, and schools are rising religious care and instruction of long to the true Church. In Protestantism took its rise, a better has taken place. Con institutions have been re-established youth, and especially the child associations have been formed for Faith. The literature has been zeal has been revived, and it is understood that security for social eternal salvation, can only be Church. In other countries 1

Christians deluded by the love of earthly things, have become indifferent towards GOD and His holy religion; if the Church is still in some kingdoms continually oppressed and persecuted, this ought not to shake our faith, but rather confirm us in it; for even in this we see the accomplishment of the prophecies recorded in Holy Writ, that one day a great revolt shall take place from GOD and CHRIST the Saviour of the world. (St. Luke 18. 8. 2 Thess. 2. 3, 4.) Everyone therefore must take heed that they be not deceived and led away from the Catholic Church, but remain faithful unto death, that they may receive the crown of eternal life.

ought one to think of the continual persecution of, and opposition to the Church? Are they not a proof of the truth of CHRIST's prophecies? What must every one do at this time? What reward will those obtain who are faithful to the Catholic religion?

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCES OF THE TRUTH OF OUR DIVINE RELIGION.

1. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION NOT MADE BY MAN.
 —We have now, in a small compass, surveyed the history of our holy religion, together with the blessings it has conferred upon mankind in past ages, from our first parent, Adam, to our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, and from Him, the Divine Founder and Head of our Church, to His present Vicegerent on earth, Pope Pius IX. How sublime and beautiful is the religion we profess! On every side it continually proclaims that no one but GOD could have given such a religion to mankind.

2. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION GIVEN TO US BY GOD.—Our religion has not been invented by man: GOD Himself has taught it, and commanded us to observe it. He has taught it by holy men in the times before CHRIST, (§ 6, 11, 17,) and precisely as was foretold by the Prophets, His Only Begotten Eternal SON has appeared on earth (§ 21), and has most abundantly confirmed His Divine Mission and doctrines by stupendous miracles, especially by His Resurrection from the dead (§ 22, 23, 26, 27). GOD has spoken to us by His SON, and we must hearken to His Word. To doubt or to reject it, would be to expose oneself to eternal wrath.

3. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION NOT A MODERN RELIGION.—The religion to which we belong, does not date back from only a few centuries, like the modern sects. It was first instituted in Paradise, when GOD promised a Redeemer to our first parents after their fall (§ 2); and it was continued and preserved in the Old Law, which with its sacrifices and wonderful events, was but a figure of the New Law that contains its accomplishment and fulfilment (§ 7, 9, 12). Those who lived under the Old Law believed in the Redeemer Who was to come; and the Christians in the New Law believe in Him Who has come. But it is the same belief in the same Redeemer, and it is therefore essentially the same religion.

4. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ATTESTED BY HISTORY.—Although the origin of our holy religion is coeval with the origin of mankind, and its history embraces about six thousand years, its origin is not lost in the obscure fables of antiquity, like the pretended ancient religions of the Pagans, but its truth is evident and manifest to all, and it exhibits from the *earliest ages to our time*, an uninterrupted series of the *most public and notorious facts and events*, intimately *connected with one another*, and confirmed by all the

monuments of past ages and the history of all nations, which bear such manifest testimony to their truth, that any one who should deny them must question the accuracy of history altogether. We can name every generation exactly as they succeeded one another from Adam to CHRIST, and all the Supreme Pastors of the Church since St. Peter, who was appointed by CHRIST, to our Holy Father, Pope Pius IX., now gloriously governing the Church of GOD. What a wonderful chain of evidence, and what an unparalleled succession!

5. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ATTESTED BY THE JEWS.—Even the Jews, the most obstinate adversaries of our faith, bear evidence to its truth. For they preserve minutely in their holy books, the entire history and all the prophecies of the Old Testament, to which we appeal, in order to show the Divine origin of Christianity; and thus no one can for a moment suppose that the Christians invented or changed those passages that refer to the Redeemer. (§ 17.)

6. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ATTESTED BY ITS MIRACULOUS PROPAGATION.—Nor can it be denied that it was entirely through the mighty help of GOD, that the Christian religion has spread over the whole earth. For the Apostles who first preached it, were from the lower classes of society, poor, without human credit or consideration, without even eloquence or education. Their doctrine of the Cross, which inculcates the practice of penance, humility, and mortification, was not likely to please the proud and licentious Pagans, who by their false religion and worship of fabulous gods not only pretended to excuse but even to justify their abominable vices. The rich and great ones of the world despised the poor fishermen; the philosophers and learned men derided them; and the rulers of the world, as even Pagan writers testify, tried to destroy them with fire and sword. For three centuries

persecution and martyrdom was the common lot of the Christians. Nevertheless, the doctrine of the poor fishermen, as we have seen, triumphed over all the opposition of its enemies, and it was thus proved to be the doctrine of GOD. (§ 29—35.) It spread so rapidly, that soon after the death of the Apostles, St. Justin publicly asserted: "There is no people, neither among the Barbarians nor among the Greeks, nor in any other known nation, by whom prayers and thanksgivings are not offered up to the FATHER and Creator of the universe, in the name of CHRIST Crucified." No one but the ALMIGHTY could have wrought such a stupendous wonder. St. Augustine, the celebrated father of the Church, observes upon this: "If the miracles wrought by the Apostles could be denied, this would be a still greater miracle, that the world believed without miracles."

7. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ATTESTED BY ITS MIRACULOUS EXISTENCE.—The Christian Church is not only founded on miracles, but its continual existence is a constant and perpetual miracle. Great and powerful empires and kingdoms have perished in the course of time; but the kingdom of CHRIST survives them all, and is constantly gaining strength. Even if it decrease in one part of the world, it gains ground in another. (§ 61, 62.)

From the time of its foundation, the Church of CHRIST has been assailed by innumerable enemies from within and from without, who were terrible from their power, and implacable in their hatred of it; and yet, without any human arms to defend itself against their violent attacks, it has successfully triumphed. Had not the arm of GOD protected the Church, it would long since have been overcome by the fraud and violence of its enemies. (§ 32, 36, 38, 47, 52, 53, 64, 65.)

8. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION ATTESTED BY ITS

FRUITS.—The Christian Church appears still more glorious, if we consider what benefits and blessings it has at all times conferred upon mankind. It was the Church that subdued the brutality of the savage barbarians; that abolished slavery and human sacrifices; and that promoted civilization, and public and domestic happiness. It founded charitable institutions, and hospitals for the sick and distressed; it taught true concord and charity, and it diffused learning and enlightenment. (§ 30, 38—45, 51, 61—63.)

It can truly be called the "Tree of Life," which GOD has planted that all men should peacefully rest under its shade, and be fed with its fruits. No nation has ever abandoned this "Tree of Life," without plunging itself into great misery and evil. Those people in Asia and Africa, who were formerly so happy while they remained faithful to the Church, are now in the deepest slavery; and the dreadful results that Protestantism and the Anti-Christian Free-thinkers have produced in Europe, have already been described. (§ 47, 50, 55, 60, 64, 65.)

As "the tree is to be known by its fruits," (St. Matt. 7. 16,) every one must see that the Christian faith, which has diffused such happiness and blessings, is the most valuable gift of GOD to men; and, on the contrary, that heresy and infidelity, which have caused so much misery to the world, can only have proceeded from the spirit of evil.

9. THE CATHOLIC RELIGION THE ONLY TRUE RELIGION.—This Church, which the ALMIGHTY has founded by miracles, which is in itself a continual miracle, which incessantly pours out the greatest benefits on the universe, can be no other than the Roman Catholic Church. History clearly proves that it, and no other, forms that community of the faithful which CHRIST has established for the salvation of the world; in which the Bishops, as the successors of t

Apostles, under the supreme authority of the Pope the successor of St. Peter, exercise their powers as teachers and pastors in an uninterrupted succession (§ 22, 30, 31, 44, 66.)

It is impossible that any sect, whatever it may be named, should be the Church founded by CHRIST; for it is well known that they all began to exist long after CHRIST, and that they took their origin in rebellion and separation from the true Church. (§ 36, 48, 53, 56, 58.)

In all those sects the words of JESUS have been, or are being fulfilled: "Every plant which My Heavenly FATHER hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (St. Matt. 15. 13.) Their existence is not lasting; they spring up, make some noise, and then disappear (§ 36, 64.)

But it is not so with the Catholic Church. Thousands of years pass away, and the Church continues to exist, in the plenitude of vigour; for our LORD has promised: "Upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (St. Matt. 16. 18.)

THE END.



